

# Preparing and protecting the railway from the impact of terrorist attacks



**6,307 armed patrols carried out at Cat A stations for at least 30 minutes**

**4 multi-agency Op Largo (MTA) exercises at Category A Stations**

**693 intelligence-led taskings completed to tackle crime and safeguarding issues**

**10 ACT Awareness and operational input sessions completed at Cat A stations**

**Events Planning & Strategic Oversight Unit (EPSOU)** have jointly delivered a series of training sessions to individuals to step into a Bronze Community role, in particular the Impact Assessment with the Force Diversity Lead. This has resulted in a Forcewide pool of Bronzes with the decision taken for events to proceed on the CLIO system. The Force Events Lead will now scope out a training programme for commanders to be trained up on the Events Planning Tool. As part of the workstream on Stakeholder Engagement; EPSOU continue to work with DfT, TfL, RDG and the Nuclear Transport Solutions on upcoming events. To provide ACC with assurance on events, EPSOU have conducted three months and six weeks prior to event check-in point meetings with Silver Commander for COP26. EPSOU have developed a mechanism to track Commander Training and a report is generated on a quarterly basis for ACC to review and track Continuous Professional Development. A central repository for all football and events planning has been introduced for audit purposes, and is accessible through a Teams Channel for all commanders to access. With regards to the Manchester Arena Inquiry Report, we continue to address the actions from the Manchester Arena Inquiry recommendations report.

**HS2 protest activity** has slowed in the last quarter due to a number of key figures using the 'Insulate Britain' and XR '2 Weeks of Action' in London as a platform for the general environmental messages. However key figures have used this time to regroup, and have launched smaller scale actions in the last few weeks, most notably around aggravated trespass in the Staffordshire Area and a lock in Aylesbury. Police Liaison Teams (PLT) have been busy dealing with localised protests around HS2 roadshow events, most notably at Kings Cross & Birmingham New Street, balancing HS2 rights with protestor action. This quarter saw the launch of the HS2 Resilience Direct Site by the team, aiming to reach all resilience related partners across the route providing key information, mapping and a location for sharing of information/plans. The group saw a presentation by Op Manila (Fracking), plus the new national Environmental Protest Working group around key lessons learned (chaired by Avon and Somerset). We also provided protestor management advice to Heathrow airport rail group, built a working relationship with the COP26 intel team, and worked with partners around a number of civil evictions. The team is now working with CPS around bringing together the learning and prosecution data, with a forum now established with senior leaders and government to drive this forward.

**Op Orthodox Commands CPD has been delivered.** Multi agency exercises have taken place in the last quarter in Lincolnshire (Ex Silver Siren) which was major incident involving an air and rail crash and also a rail crash within a tunnel (Ex Stanedge tunnel). Ex Amazon Rising is in the planning stages and brings together partners in London to rehearse and validate processes ahead of the opening of the Elizabeth line. CT Exercise planning is in its early stages with CTPHQ in partnership with Avon and Somerset Police and Northumbria Police.

**Work continues to prepare for the HMICFRS CBRN inspection in November,** as does work with NaCTSO, DfT and the alignment of the National Rail Security Plan and Protective Security Improvement Activity. National Armed policing will also be undertaking an inspection in the coming months focusing on the forces response to a Marauding Terrorist Attack (MTA) and the activation of Operation PLATO.

**Armed Policing** investment has been secured for Airbox and this should be live across all armed policing units in BTP by Christmas. Airbox is used by Pan London Armed Policing and GMP/WMP to enhance command and control of this capability. It's designed for frontline and field-based professionals working with or without central co-ordination, the software provides a Common Operating Picture for teams conducting safer, more efficient and accurate operations and tasks. Armed Policing are working with colleagues from the Prepare team in readiness for the College of policing OP PLATO Assurance visits that are due in November.

# Tackling serious violent crime and robbery on the railway for passengers and rail staff



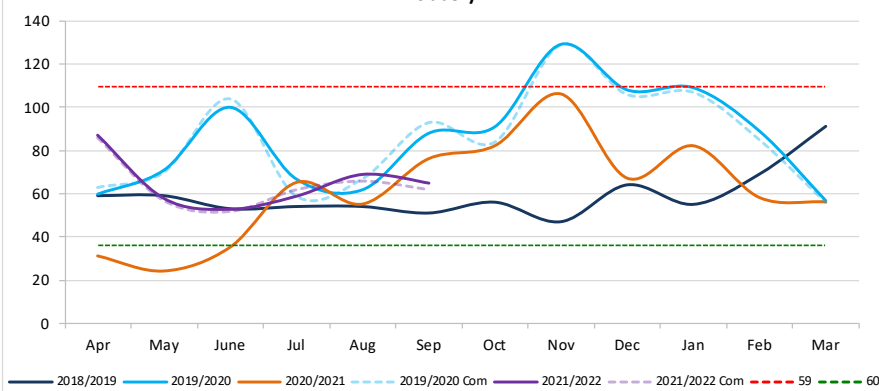
Op Sentinel	2019-20	2021/22	Diff
Robbery	448	391	-13%
Violence with Injury	1477	1313	-11%
Forcewide	1925	1704	-11%



**Stratford sector have continued to tackle violent crime and Robbery through high visibility patrols and Op Engulf deployments.** DLR at Stratford has seen an increase in Robberies, **three OP Engulfs have been conducted** and all have incorporated joint working with the Met, VCTF and OSU and attended by a local critical friend. **Results** 12<sup>th</sup> July: 8 arrests for drugs, 8 process of drugs and 36 stop searches. 21<sup>st</sup> July: 31 stop searches, 1 bag of cannabis seized for destruction, 12<sup>th</sup> August: 12 Stop and accounts - resulting in no further action. 14 Positive Stop Searches following indication from PD Polly, 2 Negative Stop Searches following indication from PD Polly, 2 Report from process, 2 Community Resolutions Issued and 1 Arrest for Theft. There are two more planned in for October and November.

**D Division - BTP have involvement in Operation Glacies, a joint operation with Police Scotland and Glasgow City Council** which focusses on reducing serious violence, the carriage of weapons, drug abuse and vulnerable child exploitation in Glasgow city centre. A main focus has taken place in the 'Four Corners' area of the city and BTP Glasgow officers and Police Scotland have conducted joint patrols on the streets surrounding the station. There has been particular focus on the entry / exit points and toilet facilities. This has increased visibility and presence & the operation is scheduled to continue.

Robbery



## Partnership working focused at key locations with volume crime

**TPP unit has noted organised theft has been spreading across the B Division network**, as offenders utilise crowded areas to commit offences. Having favoured entrance and exits to stations for large parts of the pandemic period, there has been a slight increase seen in on-train and in-station offending, notably on commuter heavy lines such as the Victoria and Northern Lines. It is reasonable to expect that this may change as we enter the winter months, with Winter Wonderland scheduled to take place in Hyde Park between the 19th November - 3rd January always proving popular with tourists and thieves alike. Whilst the number of Romanian offenders, traditionally the main driver of organised crimes, remains comparatively low, Algerian offenders continue to target people on the network in numbers. The recent arrest of a group of 3 Algerian pickpockets at Bank Underground Station has resulted in the offenders being linked to around a dozen further offences. Liaison with our counterparts in the Met Police suggests Bulgarian offenders continue to use the network to travel to locations & commit offences, although offending on and around the rail network itself is limited. A joint operation is being organised to target this particular group in the coming weeks.

There is a **working group in place for the Robin Hood Line** which is a **multi-agency group** involving BTP, East Midlands Railway, Network Rail, Nottingham Tram and Nottinghamshire Police which has a focus on reducing ASB, crime and disruption with a view to making it a more pleasant environment for rail staff and passengers. This group is still in it's early stages but we are already starting to see positives such as more confidence to report issues and a better flow of intelligence to hopefully fuel some proactive days of action.

After being one of the top priorities at **Oxford** since May, there has been a reduction in bike thefts. Officers have been busy conducting high visibility & covert plain clothes patrols, arresting key offenders and disrupting known nominals. In June, we initiated a bike cull to get rid of all the old and forgotten bikes to make the area less attractive to thieves and demonstrate that we are patrolling and watching activity at the location. The work to improve the lighting at the cycle racks has also been completed, better lighting will improve the quality of CCTV and lead to an increase in the number of offenders we are able to identify. This should act as a deterrent and increase the reports we receive for people acting suspiciously around the cycle racks. The extra lighting will also help to make the area feel safer for late night travellers.

# Reducing disruption through problem-solving activity at high impact locations

TRUST and SMIS Top Locations	Incidents (Last 13 Periods)	2019/20 P01 - P06	2021/22 P01 - P06	Difference
Priesthill & Darnley **	45	2	14	12
Bellgrove*	42	8	23	15
Pitsea*	41	76	5	-71
Sleights*	37	0	1	1
Leeds	33	24	19	-5
Newcastle	32	9	18	9
Darlington	31	12	15	3
York	30	22	22	0
Paddington	29	6	13	7
Sheffield	28	11	11	0

Activity at top 10 trespass hotspots continues and joint problem solving plans are reviewed each month at Disruption Steering Group where NWR, BTP & other Industry partners review current performance, activity & recommendations to improve safety.

*A route crime hotspot is defined as a location with 12 or more route crime events in the previous 12 months/13 railway periods (NR/L3/OPS/045/4.11). The locations in the table on the left (sorted high to low for the last 13 periods) are the top 10 trespass route crime hotspots nationally*

8 of the top 10 locations were also noted during period 5.  
\* Technical Asset

**Bellgrove is a known trespass hotspot** and in an area which is affected by social deprivation and drug use. The primary driver of trespass is individuals accessing restricted spaces in the station to engage in drug consumption. These restricted spaces are frequented by homeless individuals, rough sleepers and drug users. BTP suggests that an access gate to the west of Bellgrove has been used to facilitate trespass and subsequent drug use, while palisade fencing in the area has also been repeatedly damaged. The station is located close to several schools which could be a key factor behind the number of CYP trespass incidents. CYP related incidents and trespass are likely to increase as Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown ease & have led to an increase in ASB for Glasgow. Risk of life is significant as CYP trespass incidents frequently occur in groups. The increase in incidents is attributed to an increase in reporting due to the installation of a camera. Since the end of period 3, only one new incident has been reported.

At **Priesthill & Darnley** active monitoring of CCTV continues and events are being picked up by the operator (primarily SMIS). Joint BTP/NR activity is ongoing.

**Newcastle** – 17 of the 18 trespass incidents reported are in SMIS and did not cause any delay. The one delay incident reported in TRUST caused 10 delay minutes due to an individual walking from the station down the cess. SMIS incidents were generally reports of people on the tracks, one incident involving youths and one involving pre-suicidal behaviour.

At **York** causal factors include individuals taking shortcuts, retrieving items from the tracks, pre-suicidal behaviour and intoxicated individuals. The number of intoxicated individuals is likely to increase as Covid19 restrictions are eased and venues associated with the night-time economy are reopened. There are currently **no ticket barriers installed** at the station due to the building having a listed status; a footbridge through the station is also regularly used as a shortcut from the town centre to a residential area. These factors mean that members of the public are entering the station with no intent to travel or without holding a valid ticket. Information suggests that individuals travelling without a valid ticket including groups of youths. It's worth noting that no new trespass incidents were reported during period 6.

**Paddington** – There was an increase in incidents during period 1 and 2, however this has since dropped off with two incidents reported in period 4 and two incidents in period 6. Whilst the incident texts are not conclusive, the majority of incidents indicate that trespass is taking place as a means of taking short cuts.

# Adopting problem-solving approach to policing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and violence associated with major events

**Liverpool Street** sector continues to be engaged in a multi-agency partnership called Op Luscombe. Together with BTP, City of London Police, Corporation of London and other support agencies the operation is providing help to rough sleepers who are involved in begging and other associated ASB within City of London. The partnership has resulted in a significant decrease in the presence of rough sleepers, even as footfall at the post has increased since Covid restrictions have eased. One of the Corporation of London's most prolific beggars has not been seen at the post for over two months, following pro-active work by officers in making it a hostile environment.

During the Summer holidays BTP conducted a **joint operation (Op Flush) targeting ASB and County Lines activity on the Barry line of route**. Officers worked closely with South Wales Police, TfW, Silurian and Sword security onboard services & at Barry Island railway station where we assisted with people queuing for services in the warm weather. Barry is a location that has presented with large numbers travelling to the area on weekends and therefore an increased risk of ASB.

**D Division - Dedicated taskings have been created in relation to key ASB routes and locations**. YTD, most crime has taken place in the West of the country and, as such, a number of Problem Solving Plans have been formed to tackle crime across western routes. Plans which focus on Glasgow to Balloch, Saltcoat to Largs and Inverclyde have seen an increase of on-train patrolling in response to emerging trends. Dedicated work has also been taking place in the North of Glasgow, with officers directed to conduct specific patrols and assist colleagues from Police Scotland in tackling youth disorder in the surrounding areas of Drumchapel, Westerton and Kelvingrove.

The next phase of action is focussing on the joint working with licensing to tackle youth access to alcohol and the dangers of being intoxicated on the network. There are a number of strands in this, including youth engagement, school liaison and off-licence liaison. The effect of schools returning in a more stable and permanent way has already appeared to have an effect on the prevalence of youth disorder and associated crime of trespass on the network. At the time of this report, trespass has reduced significantly in what appears to coincide with school return.

## Protecting, supporting and safeguarding vulnerable people and those at risk of harm on the railway

**The Wessex Disruption Team** have worked extensively with a number of individuals who have presented on the railway in Mental Health crisis, in many cases leading to a reduction in presentations. They have recently produced a video presentation in collaboration with Surrey police related to their involvement with a young female who had presented on the railway at Woking over an extended period, but since the engagement of the team has not presented. In addition, the Embedded Inspector is the BTP representative on Dorset and Hampshire Suicide Prevention Groups and works with partner agencies to ensure a collaborative approach to supporting individuals who present in crisis on the railway.

**Stratford will be going ahead with the night watch training, in October** on the next staff surgery. This is to give them tools to assist us with safeguarding vulnerable people on the railway. We will be doing more of these throughout the year and by working together, teaching staff to be our eyes and ears on the gate line how to recognise vulnerability. As we have gone in to the roll out across our wider areas we have arranged to take this over to Stratford International and are working towards taking it to other stations within our sector.

*It is worth noting that some example are crosscutting across other objectives*

# Supporting the railway through the Covid-19 pandemic and working together to implement relevant controls, protecting the public, essential workers and rail staff as the industry adapts and returns to new levels of service.

**The Southwest Proactive Neighbourhood Team (PNT) identified Basingstoke as a priority location due to YTD offences and staff feeling unsafe at the location. It's a station that the south have been tackling since May 21.**

BTP PNT spoke to staff and they report that people jump the ticket barriers between 3-7pm, often from the Mortimer/Bradley & Reading West services. They also reported that youths congregate in the multi storey car park, smoking drugs and drinking alcohol & hang around at the front of the station swearing.

During visits by PNT they have attended the car park and in particular those on the first floor who were skateboarding, drinking & leaving discarded litter on the floor. All persons in vehicles and the skateboarders were ejected as they had no business.

BTP PNT made the skateboarders collect all their rubbish and place it in bins. During the visit a further group of 8 youths ran off and upon walking down the stairwell there was broken alcohol bottles that were fresh and cannabis traces.

How is this being tackled?

- Plain clothes & uniform patrols in the station with revenue staff, this will provide a visible presence and disrupt behaviour. A revenue block for a few days a week over a month period would send a strong message. This tactic has worked previously.
- Ensure the railway are utilising the ANPR on the car park to ensure the cars that are driving in get fined if just sitting there - PNT have linked in with NWR/SWR & there was a fault with the camera system, this has now been rectified.
- TOCs are sending the RCO'S to visit the station for 3-4 hours at a time as that will provide much needed visibility – SWR have been consulted and are keen to support.
- Joint working with Hampshire would also forge resources and help out as this will have an effect in the town centre as youths congregate at the Malls which is 30 yards from the station
- Consideration for a level 1 tasking to be set up – a request has now gone in to look at a level 1 tasking for returns
- Use of police powers such as section 35 dispersal during the time of any planned operations

BTP PNT wish to send a strong message to those individuals who are at the station purely with the intent and purpose of causing issues to the public and the staff.

Over the Summer Period, **Operation ASPRO** has been conducted with officers patrolling Kent Coastal locations every day and working in conjunction with Railway Enforcement Officers as well as Kent Police. The initial area of focus was Margate, Ramsgate and Broadstairs. However as the operation progressed, this was spread further to include Hastings too as well as taking in Whitstable, Birchington, West Gate on Sea and Herne Bay. Response officers from Maidstone and Ashford also assisted along with Southeastern Railway Staff in “scene setting” at the origin stations of Chatham, Rochester, Gillingham, Sittingbourne and Faversham. A number of multi-agency meetings have been conducted involving Southeastern Railways and Kent Police and Thanet District Council. In addition to this ongoing dialogue has taken place with Dreamland at Margate (one of the largest venues in the Thanet Area) to ensure that we are sighted on their events and the risks around those.

ASPRO has resulted in the following: 202 Train Patrols, 231 Stop Accounts, 40 Stop Searches, 113 Ejections, 19 Intelligence, 31 Sum of Arrests/Offence/Detention

*Tackle sexual offences and incidents involving unwanted sexual behaviour - Work around this objective is ongoing in all Divisions, however there are no particular points to raise. It is worth noting that some example of work can be crosscutting across other objectives.*