

# More localised policing

In order to reduce crime and increase reassurance, the Mayor, Home Office and policing services have been working to increase the numbers of officers on the street and provide more localised policing. To this end, the Mayor is seeking to increase officer numbers by 2008 through the 'Step Change Programme', and the MPS is rolling out the 'Safer Neighbourhoods' initiative.

Safer Neighbourhoods aims to help tackle local issues and increase direct contact with communities across London. Currently there are over 260 ward-based policing teams – at least eight per borough - with a target of 624 teams by 2008. Each team consists of a minimum of one sergeant, two police constables and three police community support officers (PCSOs) who are locally based, locally focused and locally accountable.

Increasingly, there is also greater devolution to the borough level. There are 32 borough commanders, each responsible for a Basic Command Unit (BCU) reflecting London's 32 local authority areas (excluding the City of London). Each BCU participates in its local

Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership, a statutory body which includes representatives from the police, local authorities, the fire service and the primary care trust, which plan strategically to reduce local crime.

Also reflective of the drive to increase local policing, 1,431 PCSOs have been introduced by the MPS. They are highly visible but carry limited powers (that is, they do not have the power of arrest over and above a citizen's arrest). They were originally introduced to provide additional security patrols in central London and are now being deployed in the boroughs to provide reassurance to the public.



# Partnership working



As seen during the attacks on London in July 2005, partnership is crucial between the policing services themselves. It is also key between the police and other agencies in London. The police increasingly recognise that they cannot police the capital single-handedly and there has been a greater move towards partnership working, and a more open and transparent dialogue with other stakeholders across London (see box).

# Conclusion

The twin drives towards more localised, visible policing and partnership working are welcome. They will lead to closer and more creative links between police and London's communities, including the business community, and will help to improve perceptions of the capital as a safe place to do business.

The plans in place for a major incident in London were tested during the July 2005 attacks and were shown to be effective.

Scenario planning, and the continual testing of those plans, stood the emergency services in good stead. This is a lesson from which London business should learn.

Businesses should be satisfied that they are prepared for different scenarios - whether an attack, a pandemic or power cut - but they should also be satisfied that their supply chains, main customers and neighbouring businesses are equally prepared.

## Working with business

### Business Improvement Districts (BIDs)

A BID is a business-led partnership which works with relevant public agencies to improve the trading environment in a specific area through better marketing and management of safety and the public realm. BIDs have led to the introduction of local street 'wardens', such as the New West End Company's Red Caps.

### CampusWatch

This initiative recruits Special Constables from among students and university staff. Volunteers work alongside experienced police officers to help deter crime on campuses across London.

*"Queen Mary is delighted to be working with the MPS on CampusWatch. I am sure the first class training that participants receive in areas such as leadership and managing confrontation will improve their confidence and future job prospects, as well as making a real difference to the fight against crime."*

**Professor Adrian Smith**  
Principal, Queen Mary, University of London

### London First Police/ Business Advisory Group

Working to improve strategic dialogue and understanding between the police, the police authority and business in London, the present focus for the group is to improve communications and help recruit Special Constables from the business community. The group consists of directors from different business sectors across London and the heads of London's three police forces.

### Leadership Exchange London

London First's joint mentoring initiative enables business and police leaders to share expertise on leadership and management issues in a confidential and supportive environment. Now in its fifth year, the scheme involves over 100 active pairings.

*"There is tremendous benefit from a scheme that encourages greater contact between business and police at a senior level. What is clear is that we have much to learn from each other and I am confident my business will be enhanced."*

**Stephen Musgrave**  
Chief Executive, Grosvenor

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## London First briefing Issue 3



# Crime & security: Keeping London safe

**As a world city, London's policing and security pose significant and unique challenges. London is a global centre for finance and commerce, it is the capital city, the seat of government and home to the monarch. It has a diverse population of 7.2 million and welcomes 13.5 million tourists from overseas each year.**

As such, London's policing demands a national and international approach which is reflected in the remit of the Metropolitan Police Service.

Quasi-national functions such as counter-terrorism, diplomatic and Royal protection, and security for state occasions, sit alongside the core responsibility for the policing of London itself.

This briefing aims to provide a factual picture of policing and security in London. It focuses on London's resilience to external threats, and the moves being made to make the capital safe and reassure its communities.



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Useful links:  
[www.mi5.gov.uk](http://www.mi5.gov.uk)  
[www.londonprepared.gov.uk](http://www.londonprepared.gov.uk)  
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# How safe is London?

The majority of crime in London has been falling over the past five years. Nevertheless, London has the highest crime rate and the lowest conviction rate in England. Home Office figures show the cost of crime to London in 2002/03 was around £5.9 billion.<sup>1</sup>

Fear of crime is also higher in London. The Greater London Authority's (GLA) Annual London Survey found that in 2003 one in five Londoners cited fear of crime as a major problem, although actual crime was falling and police numbers, and their visibility, were rising.<sup>2</sup> The statistics below are from the British Crime Survey, which is based on interviews with the public and is generally accepted as the most authoritative and reliable indicator of crime trends.

As a world city, it is important that London measures itself internationally against other major cities yet comparative data is thin on the ground, due to differences in definitions and in recording practices. Homicide rates (below, right) provide the least ambiguous measurement.

(It should be noted that homicides have continued to drop in New York since the period covered by the table below. There were 572 homicides in New York in 2004, down from 714 in 2001. This progress would seem to support the view that extra police presence on the streets has had a direct impact on reduction in crime.)

*"The shared vision of the Metropolitan Police Authority and the Metropolitan Police Service is to make London the safest major city in the world. That may sound long-term but we have already achieved much over the past year. Burglary, street and motor vehicle crime are all down for the second successive year. Indeed, London is experiencing its lowest burglary rate for 29 years, and the number of robbery victims has reduced by 18,000 during the past three years."*

*"Of course there are challenges ahead, not least our determination to prevent further terrorist attacks. With the help of our communities and partners, I am confident London will continue to become safer for everyone."*

**Len Duvall**  
Chair, Metropolitan Police Authority

## London region recorded crime rates per 1,000 population, 2004/5

CRIME TYPE	RATE PER 1,000 POPULATION, 2004/5	% CHANGE ON 2003/4
ALL RECORDED CRIME	139	- 5%
VIOLENCE AGAINST THE PERSON	27	+ 8%
ROBBERY	5	- 4%
BURGLARY	14	- 4%
THEFT / HANDLING OF STOLEN GOODS	56	- 9%
THEFT OF / FROM VEHICLES	18	- 15%
CRIMINAL DAMAGE	18	- 8%
DRUG OFFENCES	6	- 1%

<sup>1,2</sup> source: The Case for London, Greater London Authority, March 2004

## Homicide rates per 100,000 population, average per year from 1999 – 2001

Washington DC	42.87
Moscow	18.38
New York	8.65
San Francisco	8.10
Amsterdam	3.13
Brussels	2.87
Stockholm	2.77
London	2.60
Berlin	2.34
Paris	2.00
Madrid	1.84
Geneva	1.72
Sydney	1.63
Tokyo	1.21

source: The Home Office

# How is London policed?

There are three police forces operating in the capital: **the Metropolitan Police Service**, **the City of London Police** and **the British Transport Police**.

This could potentially create problems of liaison and boundary issues, but in practice these bodies tend to co-operate effectively. For example, Operation Benbow is an agreement between the forces in London, (set up following the public disorder in London in June 1999), which establishes a single chain of command for major events requiring cross-boundary policing.

There is currently a national review of the structure of the 43 police forces across the UK, looking to create fewer forces which would be strategically more effective and efficient.

Whilst it is unlikely that the capital will be affected in the short-term, a review of London's policing in the longer term looks likely, considering the direction of government policy in this area.



# London's police services

## Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)

**Employs:** over 47,000 employees: 31,141 officers, 13,661 police staff, 414 traffic wardens and 2,106 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs). The number of police officers has increased by 4,000 over the last three years and is set to rise to 35,000 by 2008

**Accountability:** The Home Secretary, the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) and the Mayor all have responsibilities for the Metropolitan Police Service, which raises issues of political and financial accountability

- Home Secretary sets national policing objectives; monitors the MPS's national functions; appoints MPS Commissioner; regulates the pay and conditions of police officers
- MPA (the Mayor's police authority) sets annual targets for London; monitors performance; appoints all police officers above the rank of Chief Superintendent
- The Commissioner of the MPS has operational control and is responsible for the day-to-day operation of the budget

**Funding sources:** (Budget: £2.5 billion p.a.)

- MPA proposes the police budget to the Mayor (for sanction by the London Assembly) and then effectively bids to the Home Secretary for funding on behalf of the MPS. The MPA scrutinises annual budgets and monitors MPS spending
- Home Secretary allocates Police Grant (determined by the 'police funding formula'), making up 80% of budget. Also grants a Special Payment to recognise the MPS's unique role covering international, national and capital city functions
- Office of the Deputy Prime Minister allocates Revenue Support Grant, also distributed according to the police funding formula
- The Mayor also has authority to raise additional funding via council tax contributions (precept). Currently, this is financing the 'Step Change Programme' to increase officer numbers by 2008



## City of London Police

**Responsible for policing the historic 'Square Mile'**

**Employs:** around 1,200 officers and staff

**Accountability:** The Corporation of London's directly elected Court of Common Council is the police authority. Objectives are set in line with the National Policing Plan

**Funding sources:**

- Central government, primarily
- Business ratepayers in the City also agree to pay a premium on their business rate to help fund special initiatives, eg the 'ring of steel'

## British Transport Police (BTP)

**In London, responsible for policing the rail network, London Underground, Docklands Light Railway and Croydon Tramlink**

**Employs:** around 2500 officers, 150 PCSOs and 600 staff

**Accountability:** BTP is a national police force for the railways, accountable to the British Transport Police Authority that holds the budget, allocates resources, sets and monitors priorities and targets, and appoints the Chief Constable and senior officers

**Funding source:** £202 million for 2005/6, funded largely by the railway industry

# London's resilience

London and its emergency services have lived with, and responded to, the threat of terrorism for over thirty years. Following 9/11, the nature of the threat was perceived to have changed and, in response, the London Regional Resilience Forum (LRRF) was established to ensure London is prepared for major or catastrophic incidents, whether as a result of terrorism, flooding, pandemics or power failures.

LRRF is based within the Government Office for London and draws together key agencies in the capital. The Forum is chaired by Phil Woolas, Minister for Local Government, with the Mayor of London as Deputy Chair. The strategic emergency plan for LRRF covers London Command and Control protocol; local authority Gold Command, where one local authority chief executive acts on behalf of the other 32; mass fatality; media protocol; mass evacuation; site clearance; and disaster fund. LRRF has co-ordinated live exercises to test London's emergency plans, for example the Bank Tube exercise in September 2003 and 'Atlantic Blue' in April 2005, an exercise involving the US, UK and Canada. These exercises helped significantly to prepare the emergency services' coordinated response to the attacks in July 2005.

See the London Resilience Strategic Emergency Plan on [www.londonprepared.gov.uk](http://www.londonprepared.gov.uk)

The management of an emergency in London is handled by LRRF through what is called the Gold Co-ordinating Group (GCG). This group, involving representatives from all the emergency services, has two levels of response – regional or national - depending on whether the emergency is defined as a Major Incident or a Catastrophic Incident.

A 'Major Incident', such as the 7/7 London bombings, is an emergency involving a large number of people requiring the reaction of one or all of the emergency services. The GCG responds regionally to such incidents by following the London Command and Control Protocol. Representation on the group by central government is not considered necessary.

A 'Catastrophic Incident' is one that is considered of such magnitude that it requires full central government involvement from the outset. The Cabinet Office Briefing Room (COBR) is called together, chaired by the Prime Minister or minister most relevant to the emergency. In this way, central and regional government develop a coordinated strategy and communicate with the GCG dealing with the incident.

Depending on the emergency, the GCG would include representatives from the emergency services, health sector, transport sector,

local authority, utilities, military, government and communications. In the event of a crisis in London that threatens financial stability, the Tripartite Authorities (Financial Services Authority, Bank of England and the Treasury) convene to decide whether any alternative activity to normal business practice is required.

## Working with business

### Project Griffin

Raises awareness of counter-terrorism measures among security personnel from the private sector, so that they are equipped to assist the police in the event of a serious incident. Pioneered by the City of London Police, the programme has also been introduced in Westminster.

### Red Action Days

A joint initiative from London First and the MPS Counter Terrorism Section (SO13), these are one-day workshops – practical and sector-specific - which help businesses prepare for major incidents in London.