

APPENDIX 2

BEST VALUE AUDIT REPORT 2001/02: Formal response from the Metropolitan Police Authority (DRAFT)

Overall response

The Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) welcomes the report and considers it to be fair and helpful. The process of audit was useful and contributed to a better policing and performance plan than would otherwise have been the case. The statutory and non-statutory recommendations reinforce the need to address key issues to ensure that the MPA meets its duty to secure continuous improvement.

The 'except for' qualification resulted from a lack of data on five statutory Best Value Performance Indicators. Steps will be taken, in line with the recommendation made by the auditor, to ensure all necessary performance information will be included in next year's plan. The qualification should not obscure the overall positive nature of the report nor the need to address other important issues.

Specific actions

1. The auditor's report and opinion, plus MPA statement of response, will be published on both the MPA and MPS internet sites [*July 2001*].
2. Each of the statutory and non-statutory recommendations will be included on the action list overseen by the MPA/MPS Best Value Programme Board [*July 2001*]. The steps being taken to address each recommendation will be described and progress will be reported at each subsequent meeting.
3. Once the list of BVPIs for 2002/03 is published [*anticipated autumn 2001*] the MPA will request a formal assessment from the MPS which identifies:
 - possible problems with compliance¹;
 - options to remove / minimise any identified problems.
4. Over-and-above action (2), the need to integrate best value principles into day-to-day processes will be reflected in ongoing work to develop a corporate strategy and a revised framework of corporate governance [*autumn 2001*].
5. The terms of reference for the MPA/MPS Best Value Programme Board have been revised to ensure that completed reviews have clear and measurable improvement plans [*June 2001*].
6. This statement of response will be included in the MPA's policing and performance plan 2002/03 [*March 2002*].

¹ Depending on the BVPIs agreed for 2002/03 the MPS may (for example) have technical difficulties in providing the information required.