

Transcript of the meeting of the Metropolitan Police Authority held on Thursday, 25 March 2010 at 10 a.m. in the Chamber, City Hall, SE1.

Present:

Members:

Kit Malthouse (Chairman), Reshard Auladin (Vice Chair)
Tony Arbour, Jennette Arnold, John Biggs, Chris Boothman, Victoria Borwick,
Valerie Brasse, James Cleverly, Dee Doocey, Toby Harris, Kirsten Hearn, Jenny Jones,
Clive Lawton, Joanne McCartney, Caroline Pidgeon, Graham Speed and Richard Tracey.

MPA Officers:

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive), Jane Harwood (Assistant Chief Executive) and
Bob Atkins (Treasurer).

MPS Officers:

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner) and Anne McMeel (Director of Resources).

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Right, good morning everybody. If we could make a start? Thank you all for being punctual. We have got a lot to get through today so if I could ask everybody to be as businesslike as possible because obviously, just to remind you, we have a meeting after Full Authority to discuss the work plan for the Authority and to update you on some progress on Met Forward.

So, can we start with some apologies for absence? So far I have Faith [Boardman], Neil [Johnson] and Steve [O'Connell]. Also, just to say, unfortunately the Commissioner cannot be with us this morning. He has had an urgent personal matter that he has to attend to.

If we just go round and introduce ourselves. Kit Malthouse.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): Catherine Crawford.

Jane Harwood (Assistant Chief Executive, MPA): Jane Harwood.

Richard Tracey (AM): Richard Tracey.

Graham Speed (AM): Graham Speed.

Toby Harris (AM): Toby Harris.

Victoria Borwick (AM): Victoria Borwick.

Tony Arbour (AM): Tony Arbour.

Valerie Brasse (AM): Valerie Brasse.

Chris Boothman (AM): Chris Boothman.

John Biggs (AM): John Biggs.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Joanne McCartney.

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): Caroline Pidgeon.

Dee Doocey (AM): Dee Doocey.

Jenny Jones (AM): Jenny Jones.

Kirsten Hearn (AM): Kirsten Hearn.

Clive Lawton (AM): Clive Lawton.

Anne McMeel (Director of Resources, MPS): Anne McMeel.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Tim Godwin.

Reshard Auladin (Vice Chair, MPA): Reshard Auladin.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Welcome all. OK. Declarations of interests. Does anybody have any declarations? Yes, John [Biggs]?

John Biggs (AM): I should declare that I am the Chair of the Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee, given that we are considering various business planning stuff today.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Thank you. I think we should have that as a standing item really.

John Biggs (AM): Yes, but, on these occasions, I like to make it clear.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Great. Thank you. Minutes of the last meeting. Minutes are attached for approval. There is also a Commissioner's addendum report which has been circulated as a separate document within the minutes. There is also a transcript attached so if anybody wants to change what they actually said. Also that transcript is available on the web. This is what they do in Parliament I gather. You can go in and change what you said in Hansard! Some people. Any matters arising from the minutes? No? All happy? Can I sign them? Great.

Right. Chairman's update. Since we last met I have held a large number of meetings with various people including meeting the Chief Crown Prosecutor, Chief Executive of Victim Support, attended the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) Board, various conversations with Her Majesty's Inspectors - which I will come on to in a minute - Members of the Race Independent Advisory Group (IAG), the Muslim Safety Forum, a number of Members of Parliament (MPs) in relation to dangerous dogs and various other issues, Samurai - the staff associations - appeared in front of the Home Affairs Select Committee, the Chair of the London Serious Youth Violence Board and a number of others.

Since we met also there have been a number of announcements from Her Majesty's Inspectorate. Last week it announced the first ten police authority inspections - which did not include us - and, during that press conference and that announcement, it held us up as the model of how a police authority should be done in the country, with particular reference to Met Forward.

Then this Monday our own inspection report was released which said we were performing adequately, but I will just read to you what our inspector, Bernard Hogan-Howe, said in his release,

“The Metropolitan Police Authority has started to make some significant changes over the last two years and is well on its way to making further improvements. Members and senior officers of the Authority are clearly committed and work well with the Commissioner and his team to ensure that policing in London continues to improve and deliver an effective police service. The Authority is aware of its areas for improvement and knows that it needs to do more to improve its scrutiny and oversight of all the functions of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), for example, Human Resources. The Authority also needs to take some hard decisions to make the service more efficient and provide good value for money for London residents”.

The basic thrust of the report was we are doing adequately but we are on a steep improvement curve and it seemed to particularly like the function that Met Forward performs as a strategic document.

Obviously copies of the report are on the website - both ours and Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary's (HMIC) website.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): Yes.

John Biggs (AM): Hardly an argument for abolition then is it?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Well we can have that debate another time. Reshard [Auladin], did you have anything you wanted to add in terms of report? No? Any questions on that?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): Given that we have had this inspection report, what are the next steps in terms of an action plan in terms of making the improvements it suggests and also having input from all Members of the Authority on this?

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): We certainly are in the process of putting together an action plan and the session that we have got planned for lunchtime today will be part of feeding into that and we will be reporting back on it to the Authority and to the appropriate Committees as part of the work plan for the Authority over the next 12 months.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Chris [Boothman]?

Chris Boothman (AM): I think I read somewhere that there were 23 recommendations? Have we been sent them or is there somewhere we can ...?

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): There are no recommendations as such in the report on the Authority. There are recommendations emerging from the themed overview. Members were sent copies of that as well as copies of the inspection report. There are no specific recommendations so it is a question of developing a generic action plan with milestones.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): A large thrust of the report, as far as I can see, is, "Continue doing what you are doing, given that you are on an improvement curve". Yes, Dee [Doocey]?

Dee Doocey (AM): My concern about this is it says we got a score of two on how effective is the police authority in ensuring a clear and sustained focus on value for money to secure a good deal for the public. What I am looking for is some comfort that we are going to be looking at where we have got low scores and we are going to be coming up with specific ways to address these, not just what we normally have which is just a paper saying we understand it and explaining it all away. Actually what is it we are going to do in order to get our score from two to four?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Yes. That will be exactly part of the action plan. Having said that, there needs to be some discussion about the way HMIC has assessed us, because there seems to be, in many ways, scant recognition for the extra cost that London has just by dint of being an expensive city and a capital city. So, for instance, in terms of value for money on staff, it does not seem to take account of the London weighting that comes in, so our staff appears expensive but, in fact, that is a product of the London weighting that is part of the regulations. We need to have a look at how it is assessing us on value for money and then come up with the action plan to improve it, because you are quite right, it needs to be improved.

Dee Doocey (AM): Will we be doing a formal response addressing all the points where we got low scores? That one, I think, is a very good example. OK. In some respects you

have not got this entirely right because ... but in other respects we are taking the following action in order to address it.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Yes.

Dee Doocey (AM): Yes. OK.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK? Valerie [Brasse]?

Valerie Brasse (AM): Just wanted to make sure that, where the HMIC has outlined strengths for us, we of course do not let those slip either. Clearly there are the areas for improvement and there are also the strengths, and something that will be relevant later, when we come to talk about the business plan, the whole process of target setting. I know it says it is a strength, not least that we have good plans in place to make the planning and target setting process more robust. I hope we will make sure that applies.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Yes. Pleasingly, one of the areas it said we were good was holding the Commissioner to account, so we will exercise that shortly. Toby [Harris]?

Toby Harris (AM): I just wondered if we knew what the cost of the HMIC and Audit Commission inspection was, both in terms of their direct costs and our indirect costs, and whether you wished to comment on its proportionality to the scale of the activities of the Authority?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Do you know the cost?

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): We have not done a formal costing of our own input to it and, clearly, we would not be in a position to cost what the joint HMIC Audit Commission team was --

Toby Harris (AM): That must be a matter of public record, surely. They must be open and accountable about their costs.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): They would certainly need to be open and accountable if they were directly challenged on that. Members will be aware that we had a team of about ten inspectors who were on site for two weeks but, apart from that, of course there was extensive preparatory work which we contributed to, and then the whole business of assessing and writing up the report, so it was clearly not a cheap exercise. If Members want us to make further enquiries we can do so.

Richard Tracey (AM): Chairman, could you remind us; was this inspection headed by Bernard Hogan -Howe who was previously --

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Yes. He was on the HMIC, but the actual lead was Sir Brian Briscoe.

Richard Tracey (AM): Oh right. Mr Hogan-Howe. He was previously Merseyside Chief Constable?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): He was Chief Constable of Merseyside. He is now our Inspector.

Richard Tracey (AM): Oh right. I see.

Jenny Jones (AM): Ex-Metropolitan Police Service. In charge of Human Resources.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): He was. Hence his reference, no doubt!

Jenny Jones (AM): Yes. It is an area he knows best.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): He obviously retains an affection for that particular function.

Richard Tracey (AM): Was he an applicant for the Commissioner's position?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Yes, he was.

Richard Tracey (AM): I see. Seeking a little background information.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Thank you very much. Right. We will move to the Commissioner's report. As I say, I am going to try to be quite businesslike because I do want to try to get us done by noon today if we possibly can. Deputy Commissioner, if we could have the report that would be great.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In that case I will be swift. If I can just echo what the Chairman said about Paul [Stephenson]. Paul [Stephenson] sends his sincere apologies for not being here. He had intended to be here and wanted to be here but, sadly, Lady Stephenson had a car crash late yesterday afternoon and was airlifted to hospital. At the time it looked pretty bad. The good news is that, in the hospital, she is battered and not broken and is at home, but Paul [Stephenson] felt that he needed to be with Linda [Stephenson] rather than with us, and I think we would probably all agree and wish her a speedy recovery.

All: Yes.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In terms of the oral script that Paul [Stephenson] wanted me to point out was that we are coming towards the end of the performance year, just another week and a bit to go, and it has been a challenging year for the MPS in terms of a number of things that we have had to confront. The priority has still been to tackle violence and to maintain the downward pressure on violence across London and, additionally, later in the year, the problem of increase in burglary.

We have also had a number of public order demonstrations and other events, such as the Afghanistan conference etc, to deal with.

At the moment, where are we? Knife crime is currently going to end the year probably about net nil. Not up. Not down. It is slightly down at the moment by a handful of offences. That follows the previous year, where we saw a 13% reduction following the implementation of Blunt 2 and, as a result, of course, it is against a lower base.

We have noticed that there is a slight increase in offences of robbery which has impacted on the knife crime figures. That requires a slightly different tactic, or a significantly different tactic, in certain quarters, in order to respond to that, and that is now in place. We intend to keep the drive down and to get that back into a full downward trajectory as we go into next year.

We are also concerned about some of the definitions around knife crime because 11% of knife crime is actually an intimation, which is you can put your hand in your pocket, "I've got a knife. Comply" and sometimes, as a result, the message is not there. I know we have got the policing plan debate coming up and there is an opportunity for this Authority to have a different way of looking at knife crime, which you may wish to consider.

In terms of gun crime. Gun crime, again, very serious challenge for us. We saw a spike in the mid part, early part, of the year in terms of gun crime activity. That is not an increase in intimations even though, in overall figures, again, that is about 10%, 11% aware, it is intimated that they have a weapon, even though one is not seen. But we do know that actual gun crime did increase in the early part of the year between various activity between different gangs. There were specific operations put in place around that to actually disrupt those gang activities, a number of people were arrested and, as a result, came back down to the normal levels that we would expect to see. Again, we have been focusing all our effort in understanding that phenomena and going after those who not only are using the weapons but actually are supplying the weapons as well.

In terms of homicide. In terms of tackling knife crime, tackling gun crime, the effort is to actually stop what we saw a couple of years ago in terms of the increase in young people and other people being murdered. This year we have seen that homicide overall has fallen and will end the year probably quite significantly down. Always nervous about saying that because, obviously, we are very low numbers and we can have a tragic weekend and that can change things.

We do know though that the number of homicides of under 20s as a result of the knife, which was of serious concern to this Authority and to us and to Londoners, has fallen from 19 to 9, so a significant reduction in fatalities from that. Overall, homicides are down by 33% in terms of the use of knives so, in that sense, our target is seeming to be realised.

Homicide in London is now at a ten year low and I think we should be pleased with that, as a city, that it continues to fall. That is a downward trend over a number of years now and we intend to maintain our efforts. That is around things that we did before around domestic violence as well as knives and guns.

Rape. We have received Baroness Stern's review which, actually, we think is a superb start of another debate around rape and the different way of looking at this crime. We believe that, at the end of the year, rape will be up by about 30% in terms of the crime recorded incidents, and we have done quite a lot of work which has been put into the Authority as to why. One of the key things is, now that we have the Sapphire Operational Command Units (OCU) centrally commanded, we have a greater consistency in terms of recording practices but, additionally, we hope that it is that we also have some growing confidence from victims in coming forward and to report this crime.

We are looking at working with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in a different way. The Crown Prosecution Service, through the London Criminal Justice Board, has now set up a specific central charging team in relation to rape and is working with us in terms of its findings as to how we can improve our conviction rates in terms of rape. I am sure that that will be a continuing priority for this Authority. It is certainly a continuing priority for the Metropolitan Police Service.

Burglary. We saw the increase and that was reported here many times by Paul [Stephenson]. Operation Bumblebee kicked in. The number of burglars captured as a result of greater awareness in terms of security was also seen in the boroughs. There was always going to be a lead in time. Having arrested burglars they go on bail and so offending can still continue. Then it kicks in and it should start coming down. The downward trend has now been seen over a number of months, which is why, at one point, we were looking at a 10% increase in burglary. We will end the year about 3% increase in burglary but, in the last quarter, we will have seen a reduction.

Road casualties. The fall in road deaths continues to be seen, which is good news to all of us. So far this year we have seen 161 road fatalities. That is 16 less than the same period in the previous year. It has been asked before of us so I will mention it here; the number of pedal cycle fatalities is about the same as it was in 2008/09 and we are keeping that, as an issue, under review because we have seen a lot more use of pedal cycles on the roads and they are of issue and concern in terms of keeping them safe. We have got an education programme with heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) and cyclists in relation to the overtaking on the inside and we will continue to roll that through.

Hate crime. We have seen an increase in the reported incidents of homophobic crime. It is up almost 30% over the year. We are conscious that sometimes we can often suggest that is purely because of increased recording because we know it is an under reported offence, but it could also be an increase in offending itself. So we are concerned about that and we are monitoring that, from our intelligence, to see who is committing that and to make sure we capture them.

The other one that has come up very significantly is the issue around disability and the persecution of individuals that suffer from some form of disability by others in communities. We are seeing a big increase in that. Now that may just be that, because of the publicity, more people are aware that, actually, the police should be doing something about this, and we should. It has gone to 113 incidents from 45 offences previously so it is a big increase. Still small numbers but we are looking at that and making sure that our training is appropriate to respond.

We have also had an HMIC report card. We have similar comments to those previously made about the views of the MPA. We are pleased at being one of the few forces awarded an outstanding in relation to our work against serious organised crime criminality and we are very conscious of the two factors that we got in terms of local policing and confidence.

In terms of confidence we are raising a few issues in terms of data. One of the things that often goes against us, in terms of some measurements, is that we are against per thousand resident populations and we do have a big population that comes in every day and goes home every night, and a number of visitors that stay with us.

Equally, in terms of anti-social behaviour - which I know Joanne [McCartney] and Victoria [Borwick] have posed specific questions about - we are seeing from our own public attitude survey that the perception of anti-social behaviour as high incidents in your neighbourhood has gone from 19% to 15% but in the last two quarters has dropped from that 15% down to 9%. So something is happening in terms of our responses from citizens that the perception of anti-social behaviour is falling and may well be down to the efforts that have been put in place by the Safer Neighbourhood Teams and territorial policing (TP).

In terms of the value for money (VfM) it is going to be on our high priority list, as it always has been, but we need to be more transparent about what we do about VfM. There is the issue, which we will be raising with Her Majesty's Inspector, on the basis of the additional cost of London. John Lyons, when he did his review of the civil service, pointed out that having a public service based in London adds 20% to 30% on to the cost. We have a London pay lead as well as London weighting for police officers that has not been taken account of, and our accommodation etc, so we will be taking that up. The Ministry of Justice, for example, has just announced 1,000 people leaving London to be based outside of London and that is going to save it a significant amount of money on the back of 1,000 people being relocated. That, in itself, is a clue of the additional cost of London so we need to make that case but, at the same time, show how we are driving down the unit cost of our production.

That, I think, is it, Chairman.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Great. Thank you very much. We have some submitted questions who, as usual, get priority. We will kick off with Tony Arbour.

Tony Arbour (AM): This question relates to problems generated in Kingston Town Centre which overflows across Kingston Bridge, a matter of a couple of hundred yards, where the revellers pick up cabs which are much cheaper in Hampton Wick than they are in Kingston. Richmond has difficulty in policing that area because it is a low crime area for the borough of Richmond and the simple request is that patrols in Kingston Town Centre simply come across the bridge and show a presence.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Perfectly reasonable and one that is underway between Richmond and Kingston. One of the new protocols within TP is the fact that nearest unit, irrespective of boundaries, should go and deal with events and incidents, especially **IMS(?)** calls.

In relation to the particular problem that you identified, that has been identified as a specific challenge for the Safer Neighbourhood Teams, both sides, who are collaborating in terms of responding to it and dealing with the individuals there. They have, at this moment in time, approached the university about conduct of the students and, at the same time, increased patrols at that time of night. That is in hand and, yes, they will deploy across the boundary.

Tony Arbour (AM): Thanks very much.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Jenny [Jones]?

Jenny Jones (AM): Thank you. Yes, the Blair Peach report.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Just for the benefit of people who do not have it, would you mind asking can we have an update?

Jenny Jones (AM): Of course. I was just trying to save time. Can we be provided with an update on the publication of the Blair Peach report?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): The Commissioner is committed to publishing the report and still remains committed to doing it. Following the review that we mentioned here, where we used counsel and all the rest of it, as previously stated, we decided to send it to the Director of Public Prosecutions again, just to make sure that there was nothing there that we would mess up by actually publishing it. The CPS has asked for additional material, which we are providing, and, as a result, we still await that outcome but, hopefully, it will not be too much longer.

Jenny Jones (AM): Thank you. My second question was could you give us an update on the Enfield corruption cases, where ten officers were suspended in February 2008 and six suspended in June 2009?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In terms of the suspensions what actually happened was ten officers in total were suspended in February 2009. Eight of those officers still remain suspended and two are on restricted duties. The further six were

actually because a suspension had been removed and then further evidence was found and they were re-suspended. So it was not ten and six. It is not 16 officers. The investigation focuses on ten and there are now eight officers that remain suspended. That is currently still part of the investigation and the file is with the CPS and we await a CPS decision.

Jenny Jones (AM): Thank you very much. Could I also ask something that you mentioned earlier about the rape and the Baroness Stern report?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Can we just get through the written questions and then we will come back to that, if that is all right?

Jenny Jones (AM): OK.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): James [Cleverly]?

James Cleverly (AM): Thank you. I have received reports from my link boroughs about metal theft, particularly metal theft of municipal property, and I was wondering if this situation is reflected across London boroughs and, if so, what measures have been put in place to tackle that?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In actual fact the metal theft was a significant problem in 2007 and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) working group, led by the British Transport Police (BTP), with the railways being one of the biggest losers in terms of metal theft, and that work has been ongoing. There has, in fact, been a massive reduction in metal thefts. We have gone from 4,747 in 2009 to, this year, 487. That is, as we see it, as a big result in the reduction in the value of steel and the requirement for steel. As a result of that, it is actually very much down. We are aware, though, that you do have some high incidents in terms of the impact, high profile incidents, where power stations and whatever are attacked, and then we lose power, as you suffered down in Bexley previously. Those we respond to very swiftly.

James Cleverly (AM): Are you in a position to give some details about how you have been tackling that? One of the things that strikes me is municipal metalware is often quite well branded and, therefore, the scrap merchants that are dealing with this must, surely, have an inkling that, somehow, this does not belong to the person bringing it to their door. Are they specifically being targeted?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In terms of the work led by the ACPO metal theft working group, yes. Scrap metal dealers get regular visitations. Additionally, there is also intelligence gathering against those that we know are engaged in the activity in itself. As I say, now it is a very low incident crime than previously and, in 2007, you would have seen a lot more activity than now because it is a very low incident crime.

James Cleverly (AM): OK. Thank you.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK? Victoria [Borwick]?

Valerie Brasse (AM): Chairman, could I raise something related to that?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Yes.

Valerie Brasse (AM): It is just that in my link borough, which is Hounslow, one of the issues has been the high price of gold and the theft of gold, particularly amongst Asian communities, so I suppose it is linked; it is just a different commodity and it comes under normal residential burglary but, clearly, the metal is the important element of that and it is about gold exchange.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I think the metal that James [Cleverly] is talking about is the different one which is the power station, the coppers and --

Victoria Borwick (AM): I know. I know that, but it is linked to commodity prices.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Copper and steel.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Gold has always been a very useful commodity for burglars and it remains so.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Victoria [Borwick]?

Victoria Borwick (AM): My question was about anti-social behaviour and vulnerable people. I think most of us tend to think anti-social behaviour is jobs and having a problem on Saturday night but, actually, we have been seeing persistent problems with people like the Fiona Pilkington and more recent examples of tragedies. I just want to know what the police is doing to try to pick up on that undercurrent of feeling?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Following the tragedy in Leicestershire we reviewed what we are doing to identify repeat victims in terms of anti-social behaviour ourselves, because I think that was a very big wakeup call for the whole of the police service and not just Leicestershire. As a result of that, our new technology does allow us to identify whether somebody has called from that house telephone number before, names, and that flashes up in terms of our call taker and our call dispatcher so that they will know that it is a repeat victim. Additionally, they are being trained now as to how to respond to that in terms of the sort of response and to identify people who are vulnerable, in terms of making the decisions as to the response to those events.

Out of the 636 Safer Neighbourhood Teams that we have got, somewhere in the region of 500 of them will have, as a highest priority, anti-social behaviour. So, Safer Neighbourhood Teams, equally, will be monitoring the hot spot locations, the individuals involved, both from a victim and offender, and the actual environment that they are looking at in terms of trying to reduce it.

So a lot has gone into that and I would guess this is something that you would want to look at in one of your themed events in terms of a standard operating procedure (SOP) at some point in the future.

Victoria Borwick (AM): That is fine. So the computer system can pick them up and you are training people to identify them and, therefore, moderate our response or amend our response?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes. We are. The biggest challenge that we have is that we receive somewhere in the region of 31,000, 32,000 anti-social behaviour calls a month. 6%, there or thereabouts, are noise, which obviously gets fed to environmental health and a whole range of other bits and pieces, so the volumes are tricky in terms of identifying patterns, but we are on the case.

Victoria Borwick (AM): Thank you very much.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Sorry, Joanne [McCartney], did you want to ask on this?

Joanne McCartney (AM): One of my questions was on this as well but it was in relation to the HMIC report card which came out only a couple of weeks ago but paints a different picture than the one I think, Tim [Godwin], you just said. If I can just read from it it says that calls from the public about anti-social behaviour are not always prioritised even though they might be local policing priorities and that the forces instant recording system uses national categories, however, different definitions of vulnerable and repeat victim are used by staff, leading to potential issues. It also says that the information technology (IT) system cannot easily identify repeat victims of anti-social behaviour and that persons suffering repeat incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) report an inconsistent response and coordination. It is a very recent report.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): It is a very recent report on quite a while ago. So it is a very recent publication. Because the anti-social behaviour review by the that followed events in Leicestershire was done some time ago by HMIC - which obviously was where some of those issues were raised, which is why Lynne Owens in TP has done a lot of work to do what we were just answering in terms of Victoria [Borwick] - one of the key things was the training of our computer aided despatch (CAD) room staff, our Central Communication Command (CCC) staff, and those things are in place.

The challenge we do have are the volumes and, in terms of addresses, different addresses, mobile phones and all the rest of it. We are working through that in our contact handling system (CHS) system.

Joanne McCartney (AM): When do you expect the training to be completed?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): It has been ongoing ever since and, in terms of that, it will be an ongoing rolling programme as we learn from other events. Equally, we are bringing new people in so it is an ongoing training piece.

Again, I think this is a thematic review opportunity for a SOP.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Chris [Boothman]?

Chris Boothman (AM): Relating to that, Tim [Godwin], do we know if the training actually enables officers and other civilian staff to distinguish between hate related incidents against people with disabilities and anti-social behaviour? That seems to be the issue that has come up in the Leicestershire case and the more recent case, where there have been reports of anti-social behaviour but people have not realised that what is going on is hate crime against people with disabilities. I think some of the language that is often used around this area complicates it and makes it more difficult to work out what is going on.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I think that is a fair challenge in the sense of when you are sitting in the control room and you have got loads of calls and a big list of calls coming through, you can understand that call takers will actually take details, put it in anti-social behaviour and fire it down. What we are trying to do, through the training awareness, is to put on those things we need more information. It takes a little bit longer but you need to populate more fields. We will be putting in a mandatory - it was not previously mandatory - field on CHS now which is the vulnerable victim. It has to be ticked that this person is not before you can move on from that particular call. So there are things that we are putting in to control that as well.

The problem with anti-social behaviour is that it covers a multitude of sins. It can be from young people standing on a street corner, it can be noise - and a lot is noise - it can be a whole range of bits and it is actually about doing that initial investigation, through the CCC, to identify and classify it as best we can. Again, in terms of incident recording, there is a whole plethora of crime recording type and incident recording data which makes it a little bit more difficult as well, and that is where you get the HMI coming in.

Our intent is so that we can make sure we get the right information to make the right decisions as to vulnerability, repeat etc, so that we can make sure that we do not have something like the tragedy around the Pilkington family here.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): John [Biggs]?

John Biggs (AM): This is a point that interests me, particularly in the context of community policing and inter-agency intelligence gathering. Many of us have been councillors formerly and will know that this is a recurrent issue which affects agencies, local authorities, social services and so on. I have previously asked questions about the potential and development of joint tasking and I think I have got the impression, as a let a thousand flowers bloom approach, so we have got 32 boroughs developing their own

approaches to joint tasking and information sharing. It may be that this is an area where we could look a little bit more methodically at how we collate and collect information and share intelligence, for example, by flagging up vulnerability as an indicator when we are looking at issues of ASB, as has been discussed. I just wonder if you had any thoughts on that? Obviously, on the one hand, we do not want to create a massive bureaucracy that measures everything and ties everyone to desks collecting enormous reams of data, but there is a sort of canary in the mineshaft issue here isn't there, in terms of identifying signals which can then point towards future areas of risk?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Certainly analysis paralysis piece we do not want to get into but, you are right, in the sense that we do need to share good practice and we need to identify a common language so that we can get it across pan-London.

As a result of that we do, in fact, have - and I think we are probably one of the only regions that has - an Anti-Social Behaviour Board which is chaired by a Chief Executive, **Mike Oakerwood**(?), on behalf of the London Community Safety Partnership and, from that, has been looking at what the patterns are across the 32 London boroughs and, through the Chief Executives' London Councils (CELC), has been putting forward initiatives and ideas as to how we can actually share information as to what is going on and, equally, the toolkits about what works. There has been some very good stuff around the obvious targets of Halloweens and Bonfire Nights etc etc. That is now going into the next phase which is the sorts of things you are talking about. To have a Chief Executive of a local authority leading that on behalf of London Councils is, I think, a very positive thing.

John Biggs (AM): I would be very interested to hear a little more about that - obviously not here today. Perhaps you could drop me a note or --

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Two things. One of the things that came out of the Chairman's meeting, interestingly, was - you are absolutely right - the completely varied level of integration between local authorities and police. One of the key themes that we are trying to drive is that they at least have a shared picture of the borough, in terms of crime and community safety. Quite often they do not. Some of the best ones do. Actually, some of the best local authorities take the Metropolitan Police Service score card and the Metropolitan Police Service picture and use that to drive their activity and, as a result, are getting much better. We are seeing more and more of that through that process - that was about youth violence - but as we move on.

Obviously we are going to be looking at a scrutiny of safer neighbourhoods over the next few months in the Authority. That should definitely form part of that process. I completely agree with you; my first reaction to the Leicestershire case was, "Where were the councillors?" When I was a councillor, if that had happened in my ward, I would be considering my own position because part of my job is to look after those people.

Richard [Tracey], you had a question?

Richard Tracey (AM): Yes, a couple, Chairman. One, I was interested in what Tim Godwin said about the apparent lack of appreciation by the Home Office and the Government of the costs of the Metropolitan Police Service and I just wondered if you could say a bit more about the approaches that are being made to bring this home, particularly in the light of the new civil servants being moved out of London in some numbers to save costs? Clearly the same applies to the Metropolitan Police Service.

The second thing is, in recent days, London Councils has expressed some considerable worry about the operation of the proposed Olympic Route Network and who should be allowed on it. I have been bringing this up occasionally in the Olympic --

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Could we just deal with the questions in order because we have got an established principle about people who have sent in written questions and we have not finished that yet --

Richard Tracey (AM): Oh I apologise. I thought you ...

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): -- so if we just deal with the first question which was related to the other one, then we will move on to the other stuff, but I will put you down.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Richard [Tracey], the actual VfM debate that we are engaged in to make our case, as you have just said, is not actually with the Home Office and the Government; it is actually with Her Majesty's Inspectorate (HMI). Yes, there is a very clear dialogue going on between us about understanding that.

To be fair to the HMI, this was the first time it has tried to do a rounded assessment that is simple to read and it has had to use a variety of data sets; some of the dates are out and various other things. It is a first effort. As a result it has played down the value for money part of it on the basis that it is not quite content yet that the data is sufficiently robust. We certainly do not think it is and, as a result of that, we are very much engaged about making the point.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Clive [Lawton], did you have a question?

Clive Lawton (AM): Sorry, no, it is questions for later.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): It is on the next thing. OK. Joanne [McCartney], do you want to ask the second half of your question then?

Joanne McCartney (AM): Yes. It was, again, about the score card, if I can just find it. I know that some work has been done on it. Under the section about what we need to do more it says, "Borough commanders and senior managers experience undue turnover, with officers posted to other roles too soon, which can hamper the building of effective relationships with local people, **councils**(?) and other agencies that are needed for problem solving work". I had a series of questions on that. I know you are now saying it

is expected to be a three year tenure, but what about other senior management team members, particularly at borough operational command unit (BOCU) level?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Obviously we have done the borough commanders and there is an expectation now of three years and there are only exceptional circumstances where that is not honoured.

In terms of the others, we do try to keep teams together but, again, people are there at different points in time etc and move forwards and get promoted.

We are looking as to what the evidence case was for that particular comment with the HMI as to what it picked up, where it had impacted, so that we can see what it is and what the events were. We are, as a result of this, having a look at our turnover in that lower level because it has not been on the radar in terms of a specific tenure type piece. We will be looking at that as we go forward. At the moment there is no tenure for people like superintendent officers and **chief inspector crimes(?)** etc, but that is one of the things that we do have to pick up.

Joanne McCartney (AM): Obviously one of the things that is mentioned there is about the relationships with local people. I know previously the Mayor has said that he would have liked borough commanders to have monthly meetings with local people. Is that something you have looked at?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In terms of monthly meetings the borough commanders should be attending their Police Community Consultation Forums etc and other forums --

Joanne McCartney (AM): But they do not happen monthly.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Some of them are quarterly. Some are bi-monthly. It varies. Obviously that is part of the community engagement process that this Authority owns in terms of the Police Community Consultative Group (PCCG) process, and there has been a lot of debate about that. Safer Neighbourhood Teams meet more regularly and so, at the moment, the borough commanders would be interacting very regularly with citizens.

It is always hard to create an event that covers and represents a borough, but we do want them to be visible, we do want them to be attending neighbourhood meetings and we do want them to be attending their PCCGs. As a result, our current arrangements are more than the requirements in the pledge but, actually, that connectivity is vital.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Lord Harris?

Toby Harris (AM): Thank you, Deputy Mayor! I would like to ask about the issues arising from two deaths following police contact, and I should record my interest as Chair of the Independent Advisory Panel on deaths in custody. The first relates to the death of

Paul Coker on 6 August 2005, for which the inquest has only recently been concluded, and that delay is not unusual. The inquest identified issues around police training, failures of communication between the forensic medical examiner and police officers and about the passing on of information around the change in shifts of police officers. Obviously this was an incident that happened nearly five years ago. Is the Commissioner satisfied that those issues have now been adequately addressed in terms of custody arrangements?

The second relates to a much more recent death, the death of Bindi Dhanji on 17 March this year. Now, according to press reports - and I do not know how accurate they are - she had absconded from Southwark Crown Court, just prior to being sentenced, and was subsequently found hanged. Is the Commissioner satisfied that policing arrangements are courts are sufficient to prevent absconding, what difference does it make if a case is being brought by another police force, in this case the City of London police - and I am aware that there are, sometimes, issues with major trials taking place in London which are initiated by forces outside - and, in this case - and I appreciate it may be difficult to give comment on this - had any concerns about suicide risk been expressed and, if so, had they been adequately passed on to the officers concerned?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Very conscious of your role in terms of chairing the Committee into deaths in custody. In terms of Paul Coker, which occurred in August 2005, Commander **Zinzan(?)** is currently appointed to make sure that all the recommendations that have come out from the coroner's inquest have either been implemented or are being implemented but since 2005 we have actually got a new computer custody system called the National Strategy Police Information System (NSPIS), which answers some of the criticisms in particular relation to that case. We have, as a result, also reviewed all the training posts in terms of custody officers and dedicated detention officers.

In terms of forensic medical examiners (FMEs), with the advent of NSPIS charge and custody, FMEs are now required to put on to that custody record their findings when they actually do review persons in custody. We have also included in our emergency life support training the recognition of acute behavioural disorder, which was the tragic event in relation to Mr Coker that was not identified. As a result of that, that is now part of our training and has been going since early 2009.

The other point that we want to point out is that we are currently in the process of rolling out Project Herald, which replaces police officers with dedicated detection officers who can be fully trained in terms of **ELS(?)**/acute behavioural disorder etc, plus 200 nurses are also going to be deployed into those custody centres. As a result, we think that the work is in progress to reduce the risk of another Paul Coker.

Toby Harris (AM): Can I just come back on that one? I am aware of the introduction of nurses in custody suites and so on. One of the issues in this case appears to have been about transfer of information over shift changes and one way of, obviously, minimising that problem would be to ensure that shift changes for the nurses do not coincide with the

shift changes for police officers. I just wondered whether that was something which has been taken on board?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I do not have the detail about that specifically, in terms of varying the shifts, but I will make sure that is fed in. The key point is that they have to update the record now so there is a **risk(?)** within our record that was not there in 2005.

In terms of Bindi Dhanji. In terms of the persons that are responding to court bail, that is a matter for the court, it is not a policing issue, it is a court issue, for which they have their own arrangements. In relation to the transfer of information in relation to that defendant with the City of London Police investigation, that is a matter that is currently under investigation as a result of the tragic death of Bindi [Dhanji] and her husband. That is currently being investigated by Barnet BOCU and will be made aware to the coroner, so it would be inappropriate for me to comment too much.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Caroline [Pidgeon]?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): Dee's [Doocey] questions are before mine.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Dee [Doocey] was engaged so I was trying to be kind but if Dee [Doocey] wants to go then that is fine.

Dee Doocey (AM): Sorry. You are always kind, Chairman!

Jenny Jones (AM): No, he is not.

Dee Doocey (AM): Yes, he is. Shall we have a row! How confident are you that the overtime budget will not be exceeded this year? I am sorry, Tim [Godwin], I should have made it clear that I am excluding, for this particular question, the overtime necessary for major operations.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): You are excluding that?

Dee Doocey (AM): Excluding that. Yes.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Right. OK --

Dee Doocey (AM): Because the answer is always, "Oh well it would all be wonderful if it wasn't for the major operations".

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): I suspect that is the answer!

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Do you know, actually, for one of those rare occasions I might still be able to answer the question! In terms of how confident are we? As you were expecting, and pre-empted me, we will have an overspend but it was

down to the additional overtime costs of the Afghan summit, the G20 rollover, Tamil ceasefire, climate camp and others that we have had. That actually cost us £10.9 million. We did do an early heads up report to the Police Authority to say that this was outside of our budget scope and we felt there was going to be a pressure at the end of the year.

If you exclude all that, in terms of our current predictions in terms of our reporting, we think the overspend would be about £400,000. Again, we are not there yet. We have been clawing it back in the last quarter. So, at the moment, excluding those events, it will be fairly low.

Dee Doocey (AM): OK. Thank you. I would be grateful if I could have a breakdown of that because, looking at the figures that are published, I cannot reconcile that, but this is not the time to do it. I would also be particularly interested in looking at the borough element of that, so how much of that is being spent in boroughs and how much of it is being spent outside? Maybe I could ask you to let me have the information? That would be good.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We will provide you with the necessary financial information.

Dee Doocey (AM): That is great. Thank you.

Jenny Jones (AM): Perhaps to all of us, actually?

Dee Doocey (AM): Yes. Could I also just ask that, in future when there are reports on overtime, for clarity, it would be much easier if we were to have two distinct lines, one that said, "Budgeted overtime for the year and actual" - which we have anyway - but then another one that would give the individual major operations and showing how much they cost, rather than a narrative in the text that said, "In addition there are X, Y and Z"? I just think it would be much clearer for us to be able to pick up.

Anne McMeel (Director of Resources, MPS): Chairman, if I can help? We do actually provide that analysis on the monthly report that goes to Finance and Resources (F&R) but it is the very last page in the report. Happy to provide information --

Dee Doocey (AM): It is just that there are so many questions around overtime and I think that, if you read the individual papers that go to F&R - and I read them avidly - it is always text and it is always, "Well the budget is X and this is the position" and I think it should be upfront and much easier.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): We can provide the line items. That is not a problem.

Dee Doocey (AM): That is great. Thank you.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. We will highlight it in the report.

Dee Doocey (AM): Do you want me to deal with my second question now?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Yes, please.

Dee Doocey (AM): Second question is you agreed in October to review the provision of drivers for ACPO officers. What progress have you made and when do you expect to be able to report back to the Authority?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): First draft sent back for redraft. The redrafted one will be coming back to the Management Board. There is a draft here. It is sort of imminent.

Dee Doocey (AM): OK. So we could expect it what, at the next meeting?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): April or May.

Dee Doocey (AM): Fine. Thank you.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): It depends how much debate and discussion and hot air gets expended!

Dee Doocey (AM): I did not think your Management Board was into hot air!

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Never!

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Tight. It has been one since coming back. You can take a message from that. OK. Finally, Caroline [Pidgeon], on the written questions?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): Yes. A couple of areas of questions here. Status dog unit. There was a lot of reporting last week. It has one sergeant, five police constables (PCs) and, I think, one member of staff providing admin support. It has seized, in the first year, over 1,000 dangerous dogs, which is quite phenomenal. Do you think, given the growing issues in this area and given the case we saw last week where a dog was actually used as a weapon against someone in Larkhall Park, we need to put more resources into that unit?

Secondly, what are the police doing, given last week - I think it was on BBC London - linked to that, they showed this incredible undercover operation it had carried out which showed how easy it was to buy dangerous dogs on the streets of London?

Then thirdly, relating to dogs but not necessarily to dangerous dogs, there has been this horrific report in the local paper where I live, Southwark News, which shows a young dog who was covered in a flammable liquid, had its legs woven into the top of a six foot fence and was then set alight. I am wondering what the police are doing, with the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals ((RSPCA) and other authorities, to try to track down whoever has done this and to prosecute them? It links to other reports of

things like animal abuse of foxes and other animals in the area as well. I am wondering what you are doing to deal with something as horrific as this?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): The status dog unit, as you quite rightly say, has now been established. It was established last year in terms of one inspector, one sergeant, five constables and two members of police staff. That does not mean that they are the only ones that deal with dangerous dogs. One of the key functions that they have had is to raise the awareness out there - as I think was mentioned before - in terms of community intelligence and Safer Neighbourhood Teams understanding and picking up the piece, and having a point of reference in terms of getting some advice etc. So it is not so much about the size of the status dog unit; it is actually the interaction and the awareness that is raised outside in terms of community beat policing. There are not any plans, at this moment, to increase it but, obviously, that will be kept under review.

In terms of the issues in terms of cruelty, cruelty has always been an issue for the police, working with the RSPCA, and that continues to be the case when those events are identified to us. They are often very signal crime events as well in terms of the impact it has on local citizens when something like that occurs, because it will make people afraid in terms of who is out there on the street, so it would be, and should be, taken seriously.

In terms of that particular case I have not got the data in terms of where we are at in terms of investigating that particular crime but, certainly, it will be a signal crime.

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): OK. So in terms of the dangerous dog unit you are saying, at the moment, you are not going to increase the resources there but you will consider that --

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): That is correct.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): It is worth pointing out that the actual resources, the money spent on it, has gone up significantly. Three years ago the budget was about £130,000. I think in the budget this year, is it £2.5 million?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): It is predominantly for the kennelling of the --

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): That is largely to deal with the increased volume. I think what the Deputy Commissioner is saying is there are no extra bodies.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): The piece around that is it is a new unit, effectively. It is a fairly new unit. The main bit is, like all things with the police, it is sometimes best not to just create a squad that deals with it, because then it becomes its problem. If you have a widespread problem, what you have actually got to do is encourage all our police officers that are out there on the ground to know what to do in those situations and where to get that necessary advice. So the size of the status dog unit is not the issue; it is the awareness of the rest.

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): In terms of this crime, obviously you will get back to me on it. It is in Southwark. I am sure the local police will know about it. Are you saying this sort of thing is happening across London or is this just an exceptional one?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Sadly, since I was a police officer in 1980, you will have events of cruelty to animals and cats and various others with fireworks and a whole range of things. Sadly, every now and again, those events occur, but they are taken seriously because they do impact; it is someone's pet and, equally, it does impact on the feeling of safety.

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): OK. Thank you.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. That is all the written questions done. Jenny [Jones]?

Jenny Jones (AM): I wanted to bring up the rape stuff because Baroness Stern - and I have not read the report yet. It is in my in-tray - did mention something about having nurses that would take specimens from rape survivors, or put more nurses into the mix rather than expect the police officers to do all the care. Has that happened? Are you likely to do that?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): One of the things that we did with this Authority back in 2000/01 was to ensure that we had, across the whole of London, cover for sexual assault referral centres with health, which is one of Baroness Stern's recommendations; that everywhere should replicate what we have already done and that has to be on a sustained funding, which it is in London. As a result, all those samples are taken by the medical practitioners and nurses in those sexual assault referral centres. That is more into the part of the victims' suites that others still operate.

Jenny Jones (AM): Right.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): This is the havens that you see advertised on the Tube that do provide that service.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We recognised that a long time ago which was part of the Sapphire change that we had to do, that the care of victims was not good enough in London, which is why we fought with the Police Authority to get health to engage in the havens.

Jenny Jones (AM): So you feel you have got it about right at the moment?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In the sense of the Baroness Stern report in terms of the provision for victims, yes.

Jenny Jones (AM): OK. Thanks.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Richard [Tracey] on the Olympic Route Network (ORN)?

Richard Tracey (AM): Yes, thank you, Chairman. I do apologise to colleagues if it looked as though I was jumping in --

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): That is all right.

Richard Tracey (AM): -- but I thought you had got to the end of the list at that stage. Yes, the question about the Olympic Route Network is, literally in the last few days, London Councils has expressed some worry about the operation of this proposed Olympic Route Network in 2012 and the numbers of people that, apparently, are going to have access to the network. I have raised this in the Olympic Sub-Committee and, indeed, Chris Allison [Acting Assistant Commissioner, Metropolitan Police Service] has expressed some views and said he was looking into it. I wonder if we could hear a specific official Metropolitan Police Service view on this and indeed, if you could tell us what approaches you are making to Government, to the Department for Transport and to the likes of the Olympic Development Authority and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Limited (LOCOG)?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In terms of the answer that I am going to give you, which will disappoint you wholly on that, in terms of where we are, currently, with the actual debate, I am not briefed on at the moment --

Richard Tracey (AM): Right. OK. Fair enough.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): -- All I do know is that I have had lots of conversations with Peter Hendy [Commissioner, Transport for London] about the Olympic Route Network, which is a major challenge for Transport for London (TfL) and for the Olympic Organising Committee, and that there are lots of negotiations about how that will run and, additionally, how the Olympic Route Network will interact with things like the marathon run and various other things. It is a very complicated piece of logistics which I know Peter Hendy and his team, together with us and LOCOG and others, are actually fully engaged in trying to work out.

Richard Tracey (AM): I assume now that London Councils has come out rather strongly about it, you will talk to them as well because, clearly, it is going to have to deal with quite a lot of this?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): A lot of this will fall to TfL to discuss that, rather than the Metropolitan Police Service. We will have a view, but it is actually Peter Hendy and his colleagues that will be working with LOCOG to do that, rather than us.

Richard Tracey (AM): OK. Thank you.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Thanks. Clive [Lawton]?

Clive Lawton (AM): Two or three quick points. On page 18 in the report, relating to rape, bullet point 3 near the bottom of the page, it says the rise in recorded rapes is due partly due to an increase in victims coming forward. I know that has been a general speculation and most people think that is probably the case, but it seems to be asserted more confidently than most probably or speculatively. Can we say that with confidence or can we say that with less confidence? That is my first question.

The second question is that, again, in the Commissioner's report, on page 23, D1, it says that it is anticipated that the outturn forecast there will be an overspend by £7.2 million. In the London business plan papers it says that a net overspend of £10.3 million is currently forecast, against the approved budget. The difference is not huge, but the fact of a difference is interesting so I would just like to know if we are talking about two different figures?

The third thing relates to the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA). The report seems to accept that it is not going to get any bigger. I think it is a great wheeze - the Proceeds of Crime Act. Excellent legislation I mean. I think we should be getting as much as we can. Is there anything that could change, or might change, to get in more proceeds from these guys?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In terms of the first one, level of confidence is always very hard to say it is either this or the other; it is normally a whole range of events. One thing we do know from the havens, early on in the haven process, was that the havens were designed to allow victims to come forward even though they did not want the police involved because, obviously, a significant percentage of rape victims will know their attacker. Round about a fifth, 20%, somewhere around those lines. We do know that a lot of work in terms of the havens to encourage people to actually come forward is being done, so we assume that that is having an effect, but it is an assumption as opposed to a confident piece.

The consistency of reporting will be a big issue as well in terms of whether it is codified as indecent assault or whether it is codified as a rape. Obviously the change in the Sexual Offences Act, some years ago, has changed the actual events that would now be classified as rape.

So there is a whole range of things that are in there. I know a report was brought to the Authority around that, at a SOP as I understand it. That is about the best I can give. Level of confidence? It is an assumption that I am confident about making, if you know what I mean.

In terms of the different figures, it is very fortunate that I have got Anne [McMeel] sitting next to me because I am sure it would be a period reporting piece.

Anne McMeel (Director of Resources, MPS): Yes, Chairman, the convention in the business plan is that we report at period nine. What is in the Commissioner's report is period ten. As we have discussed at the Finance & Resources Committee, we have been anticipating a downward trend on this figure as we have been going through the year and, indeed, the message was going out very strongly into the organisation, from Management Board, that there should be no rush to spend at the end of the year, just to use up people's budgets. It had to be proper expenditure going through the books. We have been pressing that down.

We did, in fact, have a report at Management Board yesterday which is period 11, which shows that figure reducing further, so we are where we were expecting to be, coming towards the end of the year.

Clive Lawton (AM): Thank you.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In relation to POCA, yes, there is lots of debate. This Authority actually made an approach to the Home Office to change the way the POCA monies were dispersed so that we could actually increase our investment in terms of those that pursue the POCA opportunity. That was turned down at that point because a significant amount of money that is collected actually goes into other budgets within government. We continue to press that case because the challenge is, do you maintain your neighbourhood at levels or do you put people into POCA? At the moment we think that the people that should pay for the police officers we have got involved in POCA and other staff are the criminal themselves, and we are making --

Clive Lawton (AM): But that does not increase the quantum of money confiscated?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): It will do in terms of seeing the opportunities and being able to make those different orders. There have been some cases in the appeal court which have made it a little bit more tricky as well, in relation to some of the assessments in terms of how much money an individual has gained from criminality, so there are a number of issues in that. There is a big strategic debate going on, with the Home Office, which I think will get a lot more life into it, post May.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Currently POCA is a loss making business for us because we have to give so much money away to the Home Office. Tim [Godwin] proposed a very innovative deal, effectively, where we invested upfront, on the basis that we would recover our costs and make a profit on the proposal but, actually, because we were investing, the Home Office would make more money too. It was reluctant to take that because it was uncertain about it for some reason. It was difficult to get a decision. It got lost in the byzantine workings of the Home Office somewhere.

Clive Lawton (AM): It continues to be chased?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): It does.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Yes. We will have to take a decision, budgetary-wise, in the next 12 months about whether we continue at the level we do, in terms of investment, because we are losing money at the level we do. As Tim [Godwin] said, that is money that is going out of the door that we could be spending on other things. We are only spending that money, effectively, to put money in the Home Office's pocket, which is not exactly a fair division of the spoils.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I am hopeful that it does get it. It is about how it facilitates achieving it. I think we will have a good result either next year or the year after.

Clive Lawton (AM): Thank you.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Chris [Boothman]?

Chris Boothman (AM): I have been in a number of meetings in recent weeks about burglary in Barnet. Whilst it is clear there is a lot of good work going on to address it, both by territorial police, assistance from central units and also local authority assistance, in one of the recent meetings the issue came up about the amount of flexibility the borough commanders got to switch personnel in Safer Neighbourhood Teams across his area. I just wondered whether you could tell us what flexibility a borough commander has got to switch resources from one area to another to address a persistent problem and, if there is an issue about that flexibility, is there something that can be done about it?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In flexibility terms, the borough commanders get their asset and they can deploy them, but the safer neighbourhood piece is the exclusion on that.

As you probably know, my role in neighbourhood policing is that I actually led the National Reassurance Project to make the business case for neighbourhood policing and, at that point, some colleagues would say, "You're living in the land of Enid Blyton [and all the rest of it], because neighbourhood policing does not deliver". It is 20 years. You walk past a burglary etc etc. One of the reasons that you look at, we have had neighbourhood policing implemented several times in my career, it is sustained for about a year, two years, three years, and then it drifts off again because people do go shifting the assets out of neighbourhoods to put into squads to deal with burglary or whatever it might be.

One of the rules that we came up with here, so as not to go through what we call the reinvention cycle, was to make sure that those assets were dedicated to respond to those citizens' needs in those communities. They were designed to be the base numbers and where you have higher problems you can add to it - and the borough commander has a lot of assets that are not safer neighbourhood that can be deployed from other areas into it, whether it is criminal investigation department (CID) teams or whatever.

As a result of that I am quite passionate about defending the fact that we need to retain neighbourhood policing for everyone, not just those neighbourhoods that have higher crime rates. That is where that flexibility piece comes in.

In terms of everything else, we have the territorial support group (TSG) and we have traffic. We have got a whole range of other assets that can be deployed into areas of high burglary.

Chris Boothman (AM): There is no flexibility at all in relation to safer neighbourhoods?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): There is the flexibility about if you have got a Safer Neighbourhood Team and a boundary, as in the Hampton Wick Tony Arbour piece. Yes, of course they can. It is silly that they do not walk across. We are looking, as well, as to the cross ward work and all the rest of it.

In terms of taking people off, abstracting them from their beats and putting them into a specific shift pattern to that, we are resisting because that is the first phase of the reinvention cycle of losing neighbourhood policing.

Chris Boothman (AM): Presumably a special case could be made to the Commissioner by a borough commander?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): The rule that we signed up to with this Authority and with the Mayor is that we do not do that. Other than in if ever we - and heaven forbid - might have a 7/7 event, or we have big high demands such as Noting Hill, in terms of police numbers, then safer neighbourhoods gets deployed. Equally, the Olympics will mean that Safer Neighbourhood Teams would be used in terms of policing some of that.

The main thing is we know that, as soon as we start moving them round, you get an instant hit, which is you will drive down some crime, but then people will say, "Where are the police?" and all the issues around anti-social behaviour and all the rest of it will come back. That is a reinvention cycle, which is why we are determined to maintain neighbourhood policing.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Of course borough commanders can make a bid, as Tim [Godwin] said, for central asset, and I think Barnet has had quite a lot of central asset on burglary, which has seen the trend start to improve.

Chris Boothman (AM): I am aware of that but I think the point that was made in the meeting was that, in this particular area, I think it is Child's Hill, it has always suffered and, for some reason, it has been very difficult to address that persistent burglary problem in that specific area.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. All right. Jenny [Jones]?

Jenny Jones (AM): I wanted to ask a couple of questions on agenda item five, the written report. It is under the objective on page 17 which is making our neighbourhoods safer. In your spoken update you did mention some of the road safety initiatives that are happening but, of course, I am worried that, now traffic has taken a double cut in the financial year, then we are going to have some problems maintaining a good level of road safety work. Are you going to give me a commitment that there will not be that sort of cut?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): The budgets have already been set, as you know, for next year and that has already gone through, so the budgets are as is. I know that traffic obviously is keen to maintain the downward trend in terms of fatalities, working with TfL and other partners. It is not just the police; obviously local authorities, TfL and all those have a role to play in road safety and we are confident that we will be able to maintain our efforts in driving it down.

As I say, one of the issues for us is to make sure that we are doing what we can around cycle safety.

Jenny Jones (AM): I wanted to come on to that actually. I must say I saw that there had been a big illegal car operation which I think is an excellent thing to do and that is a good news story for everybody, not just people like me with an interest.

I also wondered about Operation Bike because cycle theft is going to become even more of a problem. We know it is an under reported problem at the moment. So, do you feel you have got a really good grip on how to deal with it?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We have a couple of initiatives that I would not particularly want to talk about in here, if that is all right, in terms of some ideas that we have around pedal cycle thefts. At the moment the recorded crime is going down but it may be, as you say, that people are not bothering to report it. We have obviously got the Mayor's cycle scheme coming in as well. We are watching this space but we do have a unit that is looking at how we can actually run some proactive operations to deter thieves.

Jenny Jones (AM): I might do some work with you, perhaps after the election.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We can certainly talk through what we are going to do.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): The other thing to bear in mind of course is that those figures are set against a rising population so that, if the number is static or falling against a rising population of bikes or cyclists, then, actually, that is a positive trend.

Jenny Jones (AM): But, for example, I have had 4 bikes stolen in the past 12 years and I have reported 1 of them stolen.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): I have had one and did not report it.

Jenny Jones (AM): No. I also wanted to ask - it is not on this agenda item perhaps - about the illegal raid and the compensation and the database. May I ask now?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Yes.

Jenny Jones (AM): This illegal raid. I do not know if the Metropolitan Police Service is going to contest the ruling, if that is an option, but it does strike me that not giving an apology to the people who were, frankly, harassed and terrified, does seem a bit of an oversight actually.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Sorry, these are the squatters who were in the building - just for the purposes of the people who are in the audience, this is part of the G20 --

Jenny Jones (AM): That is right. Yes.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We are not disputing the finding of the report(?). We offered the compensation, which has been accepted, as opposed to being found.

In terms of the apology, I was shown the Channel 4 news piece and I am not sure where that one came from so I will have a look at that.

Jenny Jones (AM): There is also something else in that because the report from the Metropolitan Police Service said something about forward intelligence officers (FIT) officers will use their best endeavours to recover all the copies of the video that they made. I have been asking the Mayor and the Metropolitan Police Service quite a few questions about databases and stuff like that. It does strike me that this is actually a bit out of control, best endeavours to recover all the evidence is not really good enough and a lot of the information taken that day is probably already on databases. There are, apparently, seven national databases. The Metropolitan Police Service has got at least two. Then lots of teams have got their own databases as well. It is a situation that is getting a bit out of hand. I understand why you have said best endeavours; it is because it is almost impossible to know just how much information you have got.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Not quite sure that that is what the intention is. In terms of the databases previously we have obviously bought lots of reports in to explain how we comply with the various rules and findings etc. In terms of FIT officers giving evidence then, obviously, that is fed through and then that becomes part of the evidence pack.

I think there are a lot of questions there about the different databases, both nationally and here, and I think that is one I would like to take offline if I can, to actually work out with

Jenny [Jones] where best to expose it in the transparent debate, rather than answer something now that turns out to be wrong.

Jenny Jones (AM): OK. I did ask has the Metropolitan Police Service got a universal policy about data retention because these databases cost money and time and resources to maintain them. Clearly there is masses of information there that is totally defunct and useless --

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We obviously, as you appreciate, have lots of different databases, but not all for public order, some are crime databases, and they all have different weeding requirements etc etc etc --

Jenny Jones (AM): I know!

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): -- and that is normally through law and decisions in law. Again, I say, rather than doing things from recollection I would rather investigate that and then get back to you.

Jenny Jones (AM): OK. What I am suggesting is that you need a policy for all your databases and start deleting --

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We do have policies for all our databases.

Jenny Jones (AM): A universal policy for databases?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): As I say, there are different databases for different uses and, as a result, to have a universal policy of one size fits all would not comply with law. I need to make sure we brief you on all that.

Jenny Jones (AM): Right. I will come back to this.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Tim [Godwin] is happy to brief you on all that. OK --

Clive Lawton (AM): Chairman, this bothers me from a different end from the efficiency end of the police. Surely if the police come across Tom Smith and it wants to find out what it knows about him, it types him in somewhere and he pops up in lots of environments and fingerprints and DNA and videos and whatever. That then tells you where all your information is about Tom Smith.

If you are saying that, in fact, the best endeavours of police officers might not result in finding a piece of information about Tom Smith, it suggests that there is information being held which is no practical use because nobody can find it. I do not understand that. Surely their best endeavours must find all the information about Tom Smith. If it does not, what is going on?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I did not say that. The bit around it for this is that we have the police national computer, we have Crimint, which is a different system to the police national computer (PNC) and, on those two systems alone, you will have to search two different records about Tom Smith. You will also have things like Merlin databases which are in relation to child abuse and **missing persons(?)** and various others. There are a number of databases all with different rules; some of them as a result of some criminal actual event, as in the PNC, some of it in relation to intelligence from various sources and some of it as victims or other events and, as a result, there are different protocols around the databases.

One of the key bits in the service improvement plan (SIP) programme is trying to data warehouse that so that there is an opportunity to do that but, at the moment, we are still not there yet because that is a mammoth piece of information, communications and technology (ICT). It is not as simple - oh that it was - of putting in one thing.

Again, I would say, I can get that properly explained because it is quite complicated in terms of how the different bits - but there are different events that would make Tom Smith feature and it is about making sure that we get those databases.

The stuff that Jenny [Jones] is talking about is the retention about those that are engaged in public disorder from varying backgrounds, of which we have had quite a few interactions and reports as well. I think the latest direction, in terms of wanting a response, is how does that fit in with the bigger picture, which is the stuff I will bring back.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Obviously there are different databases that require different levels of security clearance to access and need tighter control than others. I can guarantee that, once we do get a universal database, the next question will be, "Oh it's all a bit big brother". Let us see where we get to. Jenny [Jones], did you want to finish off?

Jenny Jones (AM): My two concerns are that it is probably quite difficult for the Metropolitan Police Service to stick to the letter of the law, with all these databases, because a lot of them are small databases kept by smaller teams. Plus it is an efficiency issue. It is not efficient to maintain lots of different databases that have stacks of information.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): As Tim [Godwin] said, there is a service improvement plan about getting what databases it can to talk to each other, to do exactly that. We just have not got there.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Equally we want to lose some licences as well, and various other things, so it is --

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Yes. It is costly.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): -- work in progress. In terms of just ignoring the law, at our peril so, generally --

Jenny Jones (AM): It is not ignoring it. It might be that you just cannot keep up with it. May I say --

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Well, that is our peril.

Jenny Jones (AM): -- I had to ask a lot of questions of the Metropolitan Police Service and each question came back with slightly more information. It was very difficult to get all this information, which I slightly resent. I just think we are here to scrutinise. It is our job. We should not be seen as pests.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): You are definitely not seen as a pest, Jenny [Jones].

Jenny Jones (AM): Even if we are.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Jenny [Jones], as I have always said to you, if you have a problem getting information, come to me and it will be resolved.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I think, Jenny [Jones], you and I need to have a conversation to make sure we get the questions down right so that we do answer the right questions.

Jenny Jones (AM): Fine.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Then final question was from Dee [Doocey]?

Dee Doocey (AM): Yes. I want to express concern about the makeup of the Metropolitan Police Service's officers; regular police officers 23% female, and 9.1% Black and minority ethnic (BME), in particular. We keep getting these figures - and I know that the Metropolitan Police Service has got targets to do something about it - but I just think that maybe a different approach is needed. When you consider, I think, 33% of Londoners are from an ethnic minority, and we have only managed to get 9.1%. I know, in police community support officers (PCSOs), we have got 29%, which is much better. I am not seeing any evidence of that moving up the ranks. With women, I noticed that PCSOs are only 34%, which I think it regrettable.

I am not suggesting that the Metropolitan Police Service is sitting there thinking, "Oh it doesn't matter"; I know that is not the case. I just think, maybe, a completely different approach is needed and I wondered what work is going into this?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): In terms of one of the challenges that we have, as a police service, with a 30 year career, it takes time to come through because the numbers that we change each year, in police terms at the moment, is about 1,100 now, is

the wastage rate. If, for example, we were to recruit at the active population figures to demography of 33% from BME backgrounds, then that would only be 300 coming into the service, which has got 33,000 police officers. In terms of making the percentage change, it is going to take time to come through.

What are we doing about it? We set targets in terms of the recruitment. What is our percentage of recruits that are from BME backgrounds and women? At the moment we set ourselves a target that one fifth would be from BME and we are slightly below that, at about 16%.

We are looking at a different way of recruiting anyway. We know that we are going to have a lower wastage rate because people are not leaving in terms of jobs and various other things. We are looking at the special constabulary and how we can use those. In the special constabulary currently our recruits, as police officers in the special constabulary, is at about 36% from the BME communities, which is a very positive piece. I think there is a confidence and trust issue. Coming in as specials does give the opportunity to experience the Metropolitan Police Service as to whether you want to be part of it. We have hopes for the future that we will be getting more recruits through that process.

Dee Doocey (AM): I suppose my questions are around the fact that I think we ought to be looking at the different methods, perhaps fast tracking. I think the targets for BME recruits are too low. We know the problems of 30 year careers and what I am suggesting is we should be looking at ways of getting round that and working within it.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Dee [Doocey], this is exactly what the race and faith inquiry is proposing to look at.

Dee Doocey (AM): We have not seen what it is.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): That will be coming shortly. The Panel is meeting on Friday to discuss and finalise the report and it will be coming, probably to the next meeting or the one after --

Dee Doocey (AM): Oh good.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): There are some issues there that it is going to look at but the Metropolitan Police Service already has some plans --

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): The Metropolitan Police Service perspective is that we now have our new Diversity Strategy. The Commissioner has posed me these challenges and one of those is the workforce culture internal strand which is about recruitment, retention and progression. The other thing is about the retention of BME officers and them leaving the force early, or whatever. There is a whole range of things that are coming. We will be bringing that forward in terms of reports later, to

show our progress against those targets. There is a lot of working going on in relation to how we do that.

Dee Doocey (AM): My concern was just, Tim [Godwin], that if you were constrained within what you are normally working in, you are not going to get anywhere. You need to change the systems and change the way we do things.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): We do do positive action. There is a law issue, as you are aware. We do do positive action on a whole range of these, but we can certainly bring that forward (inaudible) again.

Dee Doocey (AM): OK.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Great. Thank you. Thanks for that. All done? We have got about 40 minutes left now to get through the rest so if we could move on to the next agenda item that would be helpful. OK. Good. Right. Agenda item six which is the long awaited Civil Liberties Panel. Catherine [Crawford], you were going to introduce and then perhaps we can hear from Victoria [Borwick].

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): I really did not want to say very much, Chairman. The Members have had an opportunity to see the report. It reflects a significant amount of work and, particularly, some useful sessions that were held in public. I am sure that it would be appropriate to hear from the Chair of the Panel to introduce it.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Victoria [Borwick]?

Victoria Borwick (AM): Thank you, Chairman. I think, initially, I want to go back to first principles, whether you go right back to Peel [Sir Robert Peel] or to **Reeth**(?) or whatever historical context you want to set. The underlying message of all those principles is that the police fulfil their role with the consent of the people and that they need the public to help the police in order to catch criminals. What do we expect the police to do? We expect the police to catch criminals and to keep us safe.

So when we have a public demonstration like G20, where the police are dressed like members of the armed forces and individuals behave in less than an exemplary manner, it obviously causes serious issues with our relationship with the police. That is to set the scene.

Our report. Firstly, of course, thank you to Sir Paul Stephenson for commissioning the HMIC report, and I am delighted to hear that we have all been told that you have accepted those recommendations and, in fact, many are already in hand, so thank you. Our role here, wishing to support the implementation of those recommendations, is certainly made easier, so thank you for that.

I think we also need to say that, as a Committee, we had many public meetings, meetings with journalists and the press, and had the opportunity of talking to people from a variety of backgrounds.

I think our recommendations, obviously concurring absolutely and underpinning those of the HMIC, concern supervision, training and communication and, obviously and most controversial of all, is probably the use of kettling and the techniques involved there and what absolute discretion means. I second the comments made this morning already about the concerns that were raised about some of the use of the FIT teams.

Our role today. Hopefully you have had a chance to read the report. The HMIC inspection report also quotes the use of the Civil Liberties report with regard to one of the tools to increase public confidence in the policing. That is really where we see our role. We are supporters of the police and, obviously, wish to support them in their implementation of the recommendations, so I turn to my fellow Committee because this is a draft report and we still have the opportunity of making some final amendments and improvements. I, therefore, would welcome your comments and hope that today we can agree how you would like the recommendations to be implemented. Thank you.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Great. Questions and comments? Dee [Doocey]? You were on the Panel.

Dee Doocey (AM): Yes. It is quite a wide ranging report and I would like to pay tribute to Victoria [Borwick] for the enormous amount of work and time that she has put in to it. I am sure we would all sign up to that.

I am not going to repeat anything Victoria [Borwick] has said but I would just like to pick up a couple of our recommendations, one in particular around training - which I think is very important. We need to equip officers with the skills to facilitate peaceful protest. I think that must not be overlooked because it is quite important. They need to be able to deescalate potentially violent situations and to communicate effectively in challenging situations.

When I went to the Notting Hill Carnival earlier this year it was the first time I had ever been and I was quite struck by two officers I saw in two different bits of Carnival. They were both putting up with real hassle and one of them dealt with it in one way and the other in another way and it was quite staggering - somebody I thought was about to get stabbed, but he completely disarmed the guy by knowing how to communicate, and the other one was just increasing the pressure and one of his colleagues had to come in and almost threaten. I think that is really, really important.

We were a bit concerned, as we say in the report, with the sort of macho training that is the normal model and we honestly believe that it is not really fit for the sort of things that the police are having to deal with.

I think it is also important to put in context the fact that we absolutely appreciate that the police deal with huge numbers of issues and demonstrations and the vast majority have come off peacefully, but the fact is our job was to look at the one that did not.

The final point I would like to make is factual information. It is absolutely essential that the police get out, not just the good news, but the bad news, and they do that quickly. I have a real concern, if so many members of the public had not had mobile phones and had not been able to take pictures, I really do not believe that we would have the report that we have got today. I think that the job of the police is to facilitate honest and fair reporting and not to spin and obscure the truth. I really recommend the report to Members.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Thank you. Jenny [Jones]?

Jenny Jones (AM): I think my colleagues have said it all. I do want to pay tribute to Victoria [Borwick] who has worked very hard to put this together. I know we came from some very, very divergent views and it is a credit to you that we have actually got a report out of it that we have all signed up to! Thanks.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Good. Does anybody else have any questions or comments? Yes, Reshard [Auladin]?

Reshard Auladin (Vice Chair, MPA): Just one point from me. Again, thank you for this report. I fully endorse the recommendations that you have put in this report. As ever, with these sorts of reports, it is the implementation of those recommendations which actually matter --

Dee Doocey (AM): Absolutely.

Reshard Auladin (Vice Chair, MPA): On many occasions we have had reports that have been shelved or not given the due attention that it requires. I think it would be important that, today, we have a very clear indication from the Deputy Commissioner as to what the implementation process will look like.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): I am going to ask Tim [Godwin] to respond at the end. Joanne [McCartney]?

Joanne McCartney (AM): I want to endorse everything that Victoria [Borwick], Dee [Doocey] and Jenny [Jones] have said. I think one of the things that we recognised - and I hope the police recognise as well - is that the nature of protest is changing and will continue to change in that different methods are needed, particularly that softer negotiation. It is something that, when we did visit Gravesend to the training, we did not see much of, to be frank. Whilst we accept that you have to obviously train for when things do go wrong, I think that was a general concern to us and, as I understood it, we did experience the training that officers coming for their initial training would

experience. We do use the word in here that it was very macho. It did not seem to be geared up towards that softer edge of policing.

I just want to go to Reshard's [Auladin] point as well about following up the recommendations. Quite clearly there was an HMIC report into this. There is an Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) report into the death of Ian Tomlinson that is with the CPS. We do not know when we are going to have that but, undoubtedly, there will be recommendations, I have got no doubt, arising out of that as well. I think, in this report, we do go further than the HMIC report in some aspects so I do hope that the police do not just say, "We're only going to look at what our statutory auditors say, but we are going to give serious consideration to some of the further things that we ask them do as well".

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Thank you. Jennette [Arnold]?

Jennette Arnold (AM): Yes, Chairman. Can I just congratulate Victoria [Borwick] for her leadership with this piece of work and the rest of the team? I attended two of your public meetings and it was absolutely fabulous in terms of, for me personally, just seeing women on top, leading and getting on with it. Also, about the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) actually doing its job. It was excellent to see and the feedback in the room was absolutely fabulous. I wanted to start with that.

Totally endorse everything everybody has said. I was looking through the report though for something around how we can ask the service to absolutely sit down and look at the new dynamic of the citizen journalists because, it seems to me, that was the big thing that came out. We all do it; well I do it. I am out there with my iPod and then you send it off and it is out there and so it is global. I am not sure, from the report, whether you saw any evidence that the service has taken that aspect on, and also the wider need for the Communications Strategy to make that so explicit. It is not just those chosen few friends of the service that are invited in, that have the pass and that are there, but how wide is that invitation to local media? I was also struck, when I attended the media workshops, I saw so many of my local journalists there, demonstrating this was a London-wide issue.

Just to finish, to say that one of the few reports I have seen that has captured the voice of the citizen. This is what I am hearing. I think this report will certainly be well received at my local panels, which is really where I would like the dissemination to go to.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Great. Thank you. John [Biggs]?

John Biggs (AM): I tend to endorse the comments made by all the other Members and pay tribute to the Panel for the work they have done.

Being a bit of a contrarian I felt I should also lobby - and it is for the police to defend themselves. We do need to recognise that we expect our police to do a sort of an impossible job which is to be ever so calm and thoughtful and measured and gentle and intelligent in the way they police incidents, while there is always, in the background, a

risk that they may turn into less convivial, consensual and peaceful protests. There was a lot of background noise to this which suggested that various groups - anarchist groups and anti-capitalist groups - were going to do various things which, in the end, they tended not to do.

Obviously we expect our police to have this balance of vicar-like countenance and the reserve of the force that they might need to use. I know that is not a popular thing to say, given our considering this report, but it is clearly part of the context in which we work. If they could all be vicar-like in the way in which they work that would be great. If people have acted improperly then they need to be held to account. Any institution, whether it is the health service, the police service, the London Assembly or whatever, will tend to circle the wagons and defend itself. Of course mobile phones and other technology make it harder to do that when there is a far greater evidence base which might contradict formal evidence and formal records. It is a complicated area.

I have read the report - the summary at least; skim read the rest of it - and tend to support it. I think it does cover that issue but, in terms of having a balanced discussion about this, we do need to reflect on the tension that always exists here.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): I think it is an extremely strong point. My personal view, having read the report, I agree with that. From that particular G20 I know and saw there were people in the crowd who were intent on causing aggravation, basically, and wanted a confrontation. I think the police do face an extremely difficult job in winnowing out and responding to that small number who are, effectively, infiltrating what is otherwise a peaceful demonstration. That is an extremely difficult challenge but, doing that, I have no doubt the police are up to the challenge. We will hear from Tim [Godwin] in a minute about its response. Clive [Lawton]?

Clive Lawton (AM): I was going to say that I do not think John [Biggs] was being contrarian in his comments actually because I think this is something that we all readily recognised on the Panel. It is an exceptional difficult job; caught between a number of conflicting pressures.

I would like to endorse everybody else's comments about Victoria's [Borwick] leadership and I am astonished we came up with a report that looks like we all agreed, which is great!

I want to reiterate and extend Dee's [Doocey] comments in particular about this business of deescalating potentially violent situations. Taking John's [Biggs] point precisely, given the complexities of these things and given the pressures to be anticipated, that skill seems to be central. One of the things that was never resolved - and the dilemma is indicated within the report - is how far did the police themselves promote the suggestion that this might be a difficult event and that trouble might be expected?

We have a clear record of the formal instructions given to police officers before the event which clearly says, "We are not expecting trouble. This is all going to be fine". I think

all of us had the strong impression, before the event, that the police were expecting trouble. The media certainly seemed to pick that up. We are told that there were attempts to tell a different story. What is clear is, one way or the other, at the very least, conflicting messages were presented and, if that came to us, no doubt it came to police officers too and no doubt it came to people on the street and it came to the media.

So, as part of that business of de-escalating potentially violent situations, this is not just a matter for the police officer on the cordon or wherever, but it is a matter for most senior officers, for people responsible for communications, press releases and so on, and it is a skilful business which was not got right this time. That is clear. By whatever means people - all people - were expecting trouble.

I think you are right, Chairman, that there were obviously people who intended trouble. There was clear information around that trouble was going to happen. It was not quantified. It was not indicated that this might be a small number of trouble makers rather than a huge crisis. Therefore, I think, nobody really, going into that, had a sense of proportionality or how to calculate how this would work. I do not think we got to the bottom of how that came about but, clearly, it is something that the police must manage better, I think, in future.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Valerie [Brasse]?

Valerie Brasse (AM): I wanted to say one other thing really. What struck me, following on from Jennette's [Arnold] comments about citizen journalists, there were lots of people out there, they had their iPods, they had their phones and they were taking pictures of things. Things were clearly not going right; not going right from those members of the public who were behaving badly but, equally, there were some incidents, we know, and some ended up in a tragic way, upon the part of the police.

What was very difficult, on the other side of that - and what was important, I think, for us as a Panel - was what supervision meant in the context of public order policing, and getting a grip of that. There was no disciplinary report. There was no supervisory report that showed anyone had been disciplined, for example, around not wearing identification (ID) badges. Indeed, we could not find - although we did ask for - what disciplinary action had been taken, following G20, on behalf of some police who citizen journalists were taking pictures of doing things, yet we did not get a sense that any of that was going on. That balance and getting that right. We have made, I think, very strong recommendations in here about really defining and understanding what supervision means in the context of public order policing. We are certainly a long way from that.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): All right. Thanks very much. Tim [Godwin], do you want to just explain what the Metropolitan Police Service will now do with the report?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Yes. Thank you very much for the report and I know there have been lots of conversations. Chairman, I do not particularly want to go through all the stuff that we discussed --

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): No, don't. We just want ...

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): -- *ad infinitum* in terms of some of these bits. I do just want to pick up one point which is that the Metropolitan Police Service does not spin information. One of the issues that is coming out is in terms of what information was given out in relation to the death of Ian Tomlinson. That is part of an IPCC investigation. Things were said by somebody that the Metropolitan Police Service - I do reject that we spin. We sometimes get spun against, but we do not spin.

Do we always get the message accurate and all the rest of it? Sometimes we make mistakes.

In terms of where we are with this, HMIC report, obviously 12 recommendations. 11 of them are implemented. One is an ACPO recommendation that we are waiting for ACPO to do.

I am intrigued in terms of the visit to Gravesend as to when that was, because a lot of change has been done, and I do not know if that was a recent visit or a fairly long time ago visit. Naturally --

Victoria Borwick (AM): The date is in the report.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): May last year was it? I am not sure. Anyway, the piece around that is that Chris Allison is on the case. We will take all these recommendations now, since it is an accepted report from the Police Authority. We will go through those recommendations. To be clear about audit and accountability, we will respond to each of those recommendations with our views. We think the best --

Victoria Borwick (AM): It was 17 October 2009, as it says on page 35 of the report.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Thank you for that. In terms of the response, we believe that the Strategic and Operational Policing Committee (SOP) is probably the best place to bring it. Is that all right with you?

Victoria Borwick (AM): Unless you want us to continue with putting down the criterias to success?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Obviously the initial response should be back to the Panel and then a general report comes to the --

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): Absolutely. Comes to SOP to monitor, like we do the Stockwell one.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK.

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): I know it has been a challenging Panel so we are grateful for the efforts in that sense, and to hear what we were saying. We will give that formal response then to the Panel.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Great. Thank you very much to the Panel but, in particular, also, thank you very much to the officers who supported the production of the report; Siobhan Coldwell and her team, who put a lot of time and effort and energy into what, I think, is a very valuable piece of work. We will wait to see what the Metropolitan Police Service comes back with and then we can take it forward. OK. All happy? Excellent. Thank you very much.

Item seven then. The Policing London business plan. Who is introducing?
Catherine [Crawford]?

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): Chairman, yes, I am introducing, and with apologies, because I know how much Members dislike this, I am also introducing a supplementary report which is agenda item 7a and which was placed around the table this morning. The need for this is because the draft report came to a joint meeting of SOC and the Finance and Resources Committee only last week and Members did raise some concerns there which we have tried to reflect and suggest a way forward.

The plan is, as Members well know, the Authority's plan, it is a statutory document and it is required, by statute, to contain so much information that means it is very difficult to make it accessible to members of the public. More is added each year and, indeed, the most recent was a requirement to include a value for money statement, as recently as 17 March 2010, which is when that statutory instrument came into place.

There was general consensus - and I am sure Members here will agree - that if you have too many key performance indicators (KPIs) and too many targets then nothing is a priority but, as the paper that was tabled today indicates, Members of the joint committee did have concerns that, in fact, we were now in a position where there were too few KPIs and, in particular, those KPIs did not necessarily reflect matters that were of concern to members of the public.

So the paper that is being tabled today makes a recommendation that there should be five additional KPIs relating to knife crime, gun crime, hate crime, rape and burglary, and that those should be added as top level indicators and that, between now and the next meeting, officers should work together, with colleagues in the Metropolitan Police Service, to set some targets for those indicators and bring them back for ratification at the next meeting of the Authority.

The fact that the plan is so very complicated of course means that it has required massive amounts of work by MPA officers and Metropolitan Police Service staff working

together over a lengthy period. I do not want anything that is being said now to imply that there is any criticism of people who have been working to produce this massive document, but it is appropriate that Members should have the opportunity to consider whether it actually represents what we need to monitor on behalf of Londoners at the moment.

There have been several opportunities to consider the draft, including the informal briefing at the end of February, when, I think it is fair to say, that that briefing concentrated on the budget part of the plan, rather than the KPIs and the planning. All of that explains why it has been necessary to bring some modifications at this late stage.

There is a statutory requirement that the plan is produced by the end of the financial year and Recommendation 2 on the tabled paper is that there should be delegated authority to sign the final plan, taking account of anything that is agreed today, for me, in consultation with the Chairman and the Vice Chair. So I hope that that, along with the proposal for a more focused and themed performance framework that SOP will take forward over the next 12 months so if that also comes back to the next meeting of the Authority, that should give us a more coherent way forward. Reshard [Auladin], as Chair of SOP, may want to add to that at the end.

Reshard Auladin (Vice Chair, MPA): No, I think you have said everything that needs to be said. We did have a debate about it at the last joint F&R and SOP meeting. Clearly there were some issues raised by Members in terms of the five key indicators we have included in the (inaudible) paper this morning. We do think we have now got a way forward. Hopefully discussions will take place between now and the next Authority meeting and we should have a paper ready for you in terms of approval, though as Catherine [Crawford] has said, we do need to do that by next Friday.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): We have got to get our homework in on time! Caroline [Pidgeon]?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): I am not particularly happy about this and how late in the day this has come forward. I think the real issue is about the performance indicators and it is about how we are going to measure the targets to make sure that the Metropolitan Police Service is dealing with the issues that we are concerned about and we believe Londoners are concerned about. Fine, you are adding in some areas which certainly I raised in my list but things like domestic violence is not in there. Other issues I was after were things like response times for calls and other issues. They are not in here at all.

I am not happy about just the Chief Executive signing it off with the Chairman and Vice Chair. I am not happy about that. What happens if we do not publish it by 31 March 2010? It is always something that officers in boroughs and other authorities come up with. What happens? Is the world going to end? We have got a meeting a couple of weeks later. I would rather we have some time to get this right and to make sure the majority of Members on this Authority are happy with our plan for the coming year.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): I agree with you, but I think we need to be realistic about what the plan represents. It is just a point in time and it is a statutory document that we need to produce. The data around the performance on those issues that you are worried about is still available and we can still monitor it and set targets for it, whenever we like, effectively. The question is whether it just goes into the plan at a particular point in time. We can certainly set those targets in the next couple of weeks.

Reshard Auladin (Vice Chair, MPA): Which is what we intend to do. What SOP will do is look at themed performance management so there will be, for example, in terms of domestic violence, the Metropolitan Police Service will continue to keep its figures and we will request those figures at appropriate times, or within the cycle of monitoring, and we can do that.

I accept the fact that this is far too late but there is a history behind it and we are now just moving on.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Joanne [McCartney]?

Joanne McCartney (AM): Can I just say that I think it is far too late and, if my memory serves me right, we were promised the final version in February so that we would have the time to look at this. I would still like an explanation as to why we did not get it in February and hope this is not going to happen next time.

I have some issues with the targets. One of the things we said at SOP last time is that, if we are now going for a reduced number of targets - which I have got no issue with - they have to be something that the public can look at and say, "Yes, the police are really trying to hit on and they have got targets for what I think is important". We said that the headline targets were quite vague, they did not really have any background to them that a member of the public could look at and be confident that they knew what the police were going to do, and there were indications that we had not actually been sent some of the supporting documents about some of the underlying targets that made up the headline target, which is obviously going to make it difficult. Even looking at the revised targets, I cannot see in there specific figures and specific baselines that I have - I just cannot see them so I do not know where it is necessarily going to go.

If I take one, for example, KPI 8, which is on page 77, it says that maximising use of warranted officers, essentially, "Warranted officers were deployed to operational policing and, of these, the percentage of working hours on the front line duties". If I was a member of the public it does not even say that you are going to increase them. Even basic things do not seem to be in there. I want that redone.

It then leads on to I am not reassured by that target. I think we need to get that. I still do not know what is happening. I know that the Metropolitan Police Service is having a review about Safer Neighbourhood Teams and, Chairman, you have said this morning that, as an MPA, we are going to be scrutinising that.

We still do not know what the frontline duties actually include. There is debate internally about what the definition of frontline is. I notice, from the HMIC report card, that it assessed us as having 42% of our offices on frontline duty so I do not even know what its definition is. It seems, if we are setting a target on a definition of frontline duty and operational policing, when we have not set what that is going to be, like a target that could drag out all year without us evening getting to a baseline. I have got great concern about that.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Valerie [Brasse]?

Valerie Brasse (AM): I think we are all agreed that going down from 80 to, potentially, a lot less is the right way forward. The question is whether we have got the right ones here.

One of the issues for me is how, whatever we set across the Metropolitan Police Service, relates to the variable target setting process that is going on in borough. I am waving Hounslow's here and I have got loads of targets that it is going to be signing up to, both on sanction detection rates and various other things. I do not see how that links to what happens for the Metropolitan Police Service across the whole, if the Metropolitan Police Service itself is not setting targets. We have got it at borough but we do not have it at that level.

The other question for me is how we go through the monitoring that happens via SOP. There is something in this covering paper that talks about exception reporting because, obviously, all of these things will be measured even if we do not have targets. Who determines what is exception and what assurances are there around the way the MPA officers work alongside the Metropolitan Police Service to determine that we really do understand what is exceptional and what needs to come back for further scrutiny?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. John [Biggs]?

John Biggs (AM): Two points. The first is there was some criticism recently of use by politicians elsewhere of statistics which did not really compare apples with apples because the methodology had changed. I wanted to be sure that, in our metrics here, we were not in any way falling victim to that.

The second is, following through from what Joanne [McCartney] has said, on KPI 3, I think that, although I do recognise we want to reduce the forest of indicators, there is a sufficient diversity of types of offence, under KPI 3, that there would be merit in reporting them separately, or most of them separate, in order that we can get a feel for where the bulges are. So, for example, we know there is a big problem with residential burglary at present, and perhaps the trends on vehicle crime are different. I think that is a genuine matter of public concern and, indeed, public information that might help to get communities to better police themselves.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Graham [Speed]?

Graham Speed (AM): Thank you, Chairman. I do not think I have got any problems with the basis of having a whole lot less in terms of the numbers which allow us to focus more on the detail and I have got no problems - and I am sure we have not - with the additional five that have been suggested.

My concern relates to KPI 5 which is the roads policing issue, which I think is a significant issue to the public, which is one of the principal drivers that we are looking at here. That KPI is the percentage changed in numbers killed and seriously injured as a result of road traffic collisions. It either needs replacing or enhancing or we need an additional KPI to go with this.

Jenny Jones (AM): Exactly. It is what I said last month.

Graham Speed (AM): My concern is that this, as a KPI, is largely outside the influence of what we can do in terms of policing. Numbers are going down. Is that as a result of better road design, safer cars and better health service in terms of providing treatment and perhaps less to do with the actual policing that we are providing.

My objective would be - as I am sure it is for all of us - to make the roads more hostile to those that choose not to insure their car, not to tax it and to drive whilst under the influence of alcohol or drugs. I think that there are significant issues around, despite the fact that boroughs, traffic, transport and others are putting valiant efforts into doing this, there are still too many out there who are not being tackled, and I think there is a gap in coverage in terms of what we have got here.

I would like to see an additional KPI added to this list that deals with roads policing in some way, shape or form, that would address the numbers of vehicles being taken off the road, either through reclaim or other means, and the numbers of drivers that are being taken out of the system, through banning or other means.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Jenny [Jones]?

Jenny Jones (AM): I would like to support that! That is all I have got say. No, it is Kirsten [Hearn] who had her hand up.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Kirsten [Hearn]. Yes?

Kirsten Hearn (AM): I was just searching through all the papers to see if I can find any reference to an equality impact assessment and I could not. It might be because it got buried in the papers. Most of my other points were raised by other Members but I would raise the concern that I think there needs to be a specific domestic violence target.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK.

Clive Lawton (AM): The report says there is one but we have not got it.

Anne McMeel (Director of Resources, MPS): It has been provided.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Richard [Tracey]?

Richard Tracey (AM): Just one small point. I am broadly content with all of this and, certainly, the reduction of the numbers of the various objectives.

I think there is one thing I do need to say publicly - and I am sure many colleagues will agree with it - and that is, on KPI 7, the question of estates and the management of estates. I am constantly hearing from councillor colleagues in the boroughs I represent where I am link Member but, equally, across other parts of London, they really are very frustrated by the whole dealing of the Metropolitan Police Service estate. I think that, rather than perhaps, as it will be perceived, our paying lip service to this, we must actually get ahead and improve the use of the Metropolitan Police Service estate.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Great. Right. Well it sounds like we have got a lot more work to do still on that plan. What I suggest is that officers go away, take your points, have another look and work on it. If we then re-circulate the plan next week and people come back and still have a problem then we will notify the Home Office that we are going to miss the deadline by a few days and carry on working until we get to a position where everybody is happy. Broadly, once we get a consensus that it is in ship shape, rather than wait for the next meeting, if everybody is happy for me to approve the thing, then we can do it that way.

Jennette Arnold (AM): Chairman, the point that Valerie [Brasse] raised, I raised it with Reshard [Auladin] and there is a sensible answer to that because there is a lot of concern about how local is factored in. I was reassured with a direct conversation.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): It may well be that some of the points you have raised will just require a response to point out where it is in the plan, and some may require a change to the plan. We can have a look at it from that point of view. Dee [Doocey]?

Dee Doocey (AM): I was just going to ask, Chairman, when we are asked to give comments, particularly when we are asked to give them in a hurry, and we actually sit down and spend a lot of time on this, it would be helpful if we were to get a response back saying, "We are ignoring your comments because A, B and C". I spent quite a long time putting in a whole page. Not one of them has been taken. There might be very good reasons but I would like somebody to tell me.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. We will take that on board.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): I can certainly undertake we will come back individually to everyone who has made very helpful comments in a really very short timescale.

Victoria Borwick (AM): We could have one of your brainstorms where we just sit down and focus on this for an hour or something.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. All right. Deputy?

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): Very conscious that this is your policing plan but, obviously, there is a piece of us saying what we think is deliverable and how much certain things will cost, so if there is going to be a radical review, in terms of those targets, we will need to assess our abilities.

The issues around some of the stuff like domestic violence, this is all in here, in terms of the KPIs, if you have a look, 4e etc. Any of those will be provided to SOP in terms of these themes, so there is always an accountability where you do not have a target. Sometimes too many targets means you have no priorities. We would want to be involved in that particular debate before we added loads more targets.

In terms of the paper here, we did not have an issue with that other than, we would not want to use gun crime and knife crime; we would want to use shootings and stabbings and forget the intimation so that we look at the actual issue that is relevant to Londoners. We would very much like to be involved in that debate because there may be some things that we would obviously say that might distract us from other activities.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): I think that is sensible. Yes, Caroline [Pidgeon]?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): In terms of the way forward, I really think that the Home Office is not going to be worried if our plan is two or three weeks late. I would really rather we say to them, "It's going to be late because of these issues" and then give ourselves the time to really get this in a shape that we can all support and have confidence in.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): I understand. I think we just need to investigate what the ramifications are. There is that thing that if it does not pass a certain law by a certain time there is no income tax, so we just need to make sure that the Authority is not dissolved because it does not have a plan, but we can --

Tim Godwin (Deputy Commissioner, MPS): One of the impacts, to throw in, is that we will not actually have an approved budget.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): That is the thing. We will not have an approved budget. That is true. At the time. Which will put us *ultra vires* and we will not get any money. So we might just have to look at the implications of that that is.

There is a wider problem here which is we need to be realistic about the policing plan. While we think it is important and we have a look at it I would think that the number of members of the public who actually go and have a look, take it off the shelf and read it in detail, is actually quite low.

Dee Doocey (AM): Maybe that says something. Maybe we should be writing it in plain English so they can --

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Maybe that says something. This is the power of Met Forward you see. It is a communications tool and we should be thinking strategic themes. All right. We have got more work to do. We will come back to you on that in the next few days. Thank you very much.

Right. Treasury Management Strategy statement. Item eight. Bob [Atkins], do you have anything to say to introduce?

Bob Atkins (Treasurer, MPA): Chairman, in view of the time, I will not really delay you over this. It is a requirement of the guidance that the Treasury Management Strategy statement is approved by the full Authority. It has been through the Resources and Productivity (inaudible) and also the Finance and Resources Committee as well. Really I probably do not need to add anything to it. Just to say that it has been discussed quite extensively with our Treasury Management advisers, **Arlene Close(?)**, and it does represent a slight relaxation in terms of our investment strategy, in terms of tentatively moving back towards market, both in terms of length of lending and also in terms of the counterparties that we will use. Of course, still very cautious and watching developments very closely as we do that.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Thank you very much. This already has been to F&R and to Resources and Productivity so, unless anybody has anything? No? OK. Approved. Thank you very much.

Appointment of an Independent Member. We are one light and need to appoint a new person. That means we need to appoint a Panel. So we need two Members of the Authority. I think the Panel is two Members of the Authority, one person appointed by the Mayor and another person coming from the Home Office, effectively. Is it the Association of Police Authorities (APA)? The APA appoints somebody. So, basically, if there are only two volunteers, great. If not, then we will have to go away and have our usual discussions about who would like to do it.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): There are actually two stages to this process. Those of you who have been through it before will remember how byzantine it was. It is now marginally simpler, but only marginally. The first stage is to appoint two Members to the Selection Panel and then there is an Appointments Panel. Members of the Selection Panel are not eligible to sit on the Appointments Panel. Sorry.

Jenny Jones (AM): I will volunteer for anything but I do not want to take a place that somebody else wants to take.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Right.

Clive Lawton (AM): I am happy, Chairman.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Clive [Lawton]. OK. Jenny [Jones].

Jennette Arnold (AM): Put my name down. I will be reserve.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Jennette [Arnold]. OK.

Jenny Jones (AM): And Kirsten [Hearn].

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Some of it will obviously be around diaries as well, so who is available when. I know some of you take extensive holidays!

Jenny Jones (AM): Kirsten [Hearn] volunteered as well.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Kirsten [Hearn].

Kirsten Hearn (AM): I have a point to make. The first thing is to ask is I think you are recommending that the appointment be made until the end of the Authority's life, this cycle. Can you explain why?

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): At the moment we have got different people finishing at different times.

Kirsten Hearn (AM): Only one. It is only Faith [Boardman].

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): We would have two then. If we have anybody else who decides to move on then we will have three and then we will be constantly interviewing. The problem is, of course, that what you want to do, when you go out for an advert for Independents, like we did last time, is to make as much of it as possible and get as many people in as possible.

Kirsten Hearn (AM): I can understand that. I do not know how we could manage this but I will chuck it in now; a thought we might think about is is it helpful, actually, not to have everybody coming in all at once but having maybe two separate intakes to help with some continuity. I will just throw that forward.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): That is possible but it is a different issue in that, to achieve that, we would have to ask half of you to resign to get there. So, unless you are willing, Kirsten [Hearn], to start the ball rolling, it is up to you! It just seems more

sensible and efficient to try to get everybody coinciding in terms of the end of their term. OK?

The other option of course is, to the Appointments Panel, is to have the Chairs of the Committees and Toby Harris as the Home Office appointment, if people find that easier, then we can do it that way.

Dee Doocey (AM): No, that is elitism.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): That is the Appointments Panel rather than the Selection Panel. No?

Dee Doocey (AM): No. Elitism.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): All right. We will come to you with some possible dates and, if people want to volunteer, and we will have the usual chat about who wants to do it. Happy? OK. When is the advert going out?

Jenny Jones (AM): When is it? If it is during the election period I rescind my --

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): I think the advert is going out imminently.

Jenny Jones (AM): Oh no. Take me off the list. Sorry.

Jennette Arnold (AM): I am free.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): It will still be a while, Chairman, because there are so many (inaudible).

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): It probably will not take place, I would not have thought, the interviews, until after the election, Jenny [Jones].

Jenny Jones (AM): OK. I am back on then.

Toby Harris (AM): Chairman, is there any point in the Authority considering what skills gaps it wishes to fill in the appointment of --

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): We could have that conversation. Definitely, Toby [Harris]. All right. Good. We will come back to you on that one then as well. Thank you very much.

Reports from Committees. Anything to raise?

Chris Boothman (AM): Can I mention that I am not recorded in the SOP as attending? I think I attended that meeting.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): Very important to make sure you are on there. Very important to make sure your attendance is recorded. Caroline [Pidgeon]?

Caroline Pidgeon (AM): I just wanted to flag. The report from SOP from 4 March 2010 talks about the Metropolitan Police Service Drugs Strategy. It does not actually say that we did not endorse it at that meeting and we have asked for it to come back. I think it should say that really to reflect what our formal decision was at that meeting.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. We will amend the report accordingly. Anybody else? No? OK. Thank you very much. Excellent.

Action taken under delegated authority.

Catherine Crawford (Chief Executive, MPA): There was just one this month, Chairman, and, as ever, the detailed papers are available for Members to interrogate if they wish.

Kit Malthouse (Chairman, MPA): OK. Happy? Great. Thank you.

Any other urgent business? Anybody want to get anything off their chest? No? OK. Great. Now we are back here shortly. Thank you very much, Deputy Commissioner. Thank you, Anne [McMeel]. There are some refreshments/lunch in the rooms down below so if you could grab something and then come back.