Written responses to members questions

Full Authority – October 2010

James Cleverly

As the new MSC recruitment plans are being developed, could more focused police training, involving using more initiative, be introduced as guidelines are removed?

Could I be kept informed of where the Met are going as they review the removal of guidelines?

The implementation of the new model of recruitment will result in the majority of applicants entering from the MSC. MSC Officers are drawn from a wide range of occupational backgrounds and will only be able to apply having attained independent patrol status; it is envisaged that this experience will lead to officers using more initiative thereby enriching service provision.

Recruit training is continually under review to ensure that it is up to date and in line with current guidelines.

The MPS is working with ACPO and the NPIA to review, using a risk based approach, the amount of guidance currently in existence with an objective to reducing guidance or other documentation that is no longer required.

ACPO have tasked all Business Areas to critically review their current guidance manuals to determine where information can be deleted, written more succinctly or duplication amalgamated.

On the 8th September ACPO Cabinet approved the new concept of Authorised Professional Practice (APP), which defines and shapes the new approach to issuing guidance. APPs will establish and articulate broad policing principles, provide approaches to associated risks and specialist information.

It must be recognised that often guidance is written in response to specific incidents and it is important therefore that we balance the learning from these incidents with the requirement not to overload officers with new guidance.

The NPIA has made a commitment that there will be no further hard copy doctrine. The Police On-Line Knowledge Area was launched in August of this year, providing officers an easily searchable library of information.

James Cleverly

In response to my questions on the NCRS, the Mayor said that he supported having a two-tiered approach to crime and incident recording, which split into serious and local crime. How can we take this bureaucracy cutting measure forward?

 We are committed to reducing unnecessary bureaucracy in relation to the recording of crime and have recently began a thorough review of this subject, sponsored by Cmdr Steve Rodhouse and led by an officer who was previously National Crime Registrar at the Home Office.

- The review is due to report in November 2010 and has a governance group made up of cross cutting business groups within the MPS and membership of the MPA at officials level.
- The issue of serious/local crime will be included within the Terms of Reference of this review, and appropriate recommendations on this subject will of course be discussed with the MPA.