



Serious acquisitive crime has been on a long term improving trend, falling 7.7% in 2008/09 compared to 2007/08.



Knife crime showed a 13.3% reduction in 2008/09 compared with 2007/08. This equates to 1,882 fewer violent crimes involving knives.



Crime in London has continued to fall with over 18,600 fewer crimes in 2008/09 compared to 2007/08, the lowest level in ten years.



Sanction detection rates improved for homicide, gun crime, knife crime and hate crime, with the overall sanction detection rate doubling in the last 5 years.



There were 686 fewer residential burglary offences in 2008/09 compared with 2007/08, a decrease of 1.1% and an historical low.

Metropolitan Police Authority Summary of Accounts 2008/09

Introduction

The Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) is responsible for the finances of the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and the accounts therefore record all the expenditure and income of the MPS and MPA. The Authority delegates the management of the budget to the Commissioner, with the Authority monitoring performance on a regular basis.

Policing Priorities

The Policing Priorities for 2008-09 were:

- Make our services more accessible and improve people's experience of their contact with us, especially victims and witnesses
- Enhance our counter terrorism capacity and capability
- Reduce serious violence and protect young people
- Disrupt more criminal networks and reduce the harm caused by drugs
- Make our neighbourhoods safer through local and city-wide problem solving, and partnership working to reduce crime, anti-social behaviour and road casualties
- Plan for and effectively police major events in London, and prepare for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

How we did during 2008-09

During the year inspections are carried out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabularies (HMIC). The role of the HMIC is to promote the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, by carrying out inspections on police organisations, such as the MPS. All their reports on the MPS and other police forces are available on the HMIC website

<http://inspectrates.homeoffice.gov.uk/hmic/>

Every year the Audit Commission assess how the MPA and MPS are managing and using resources to deliver value for money and better sustainable outcomes for local people, which reported:-

- The overall direction of travel for the MPA and MPS continues to be positive
- Operation Blunt led to a 13% reduction in knife crime
- Operation Tyrol saw £8m invested to increase police presence at key transport hubs
- Exceeded its efficiency target by £3.9m

- Has been recognised as an employer of choice and has been successful in recruiting from ethnic minority backgrounds, and is regarded as a national leader in this area
- Has a good track record of achieving financial targets and maintaining its reserves

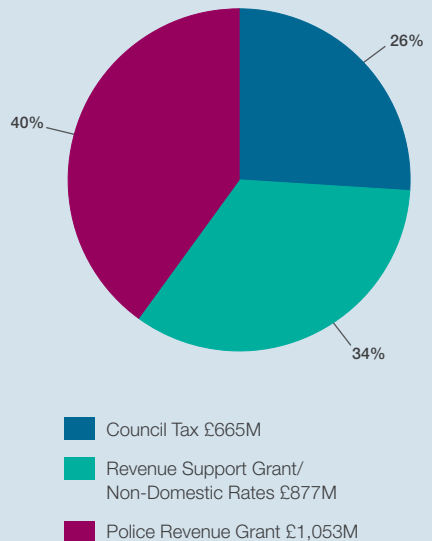
A full copy of the report can be found on the MPA website

<http://www.mpa.gov.uk/committees/cgc/>

Treasurers Comments

This summary Statement of Accounts describes some of the key points in the Authority's stewardship of public funds.

The MPA's original revenue budget for 2008-09 was set at £2,595.0m and was funded by:



The actual net expenditure for the year, after taking into account various contributions to reserves, was £0.7m less than the approved budget. The Authority agreed to transfer this underspend to the General Reserve. The total level of reserves at 31 March 2009 was robust and consists of

- A General Reserve of £47.5 million - which is used to meet unforeseen or emergency expenditure
- An Emergency Contingency Fund of £23.1 million - which is used to assist in an exceptional circumstance or a special operational need, which hasn't been planned for in the budget
- Earmarked Reserves of £200.4 million which have been set up to meet specific requirements

The net underspend was made up of both over and under spends across a variety of activities. The main underspends were on staff pay, which was due to the under-strength of staff and officers; combined with a lower than anticipated tax liability on the provision of free rail travel for police officers; re-phasing of the capital programme; and Forensic and DNA testing charges. The main overspends were on transport costs which included increased fuel costs, overseas travel and vehicle hire.

Revenue expenditure covers the continuing cost of services, including salaries, purchase of materials and services and capital financing charges. The total cost of policing London, including national functions for the year to 31 March 2009 is shown below (National functions incorporates the cost of national, international and capital city functions such as royal and diplomatic protection and activities associated with London being the seat of national government).

What the money is spent on	2008-09 £m
Police Officer Pay including Pensions	1,937.6
Police Staff Salaries	660.6
Police Officer & Police Staff Allowances and Training Expenses inc Pension Awards	219.9
Premises-related	231.9
Transport-related	68.8
Supplies and Services	431.4
Total Expenditure	3,550.2
Operational Income	(387.7)
Investment Income	(14.2)
Grants	(3,202.7)
Transfer to Reserves	53.7
Net Expenditure	(0.7)

Staff Numbers	2008-09	2007-08
Police Officers	32,543	31,398
Police Staff	14,217	14,070
Police Community Support Officers	4,566	4,226
Traffic Wardens	273	294

Spending against the 2008/09 budget has been monitored regularly throughout the year and reports from the Commissioner have been reviewed at each of the Authority's meetings.

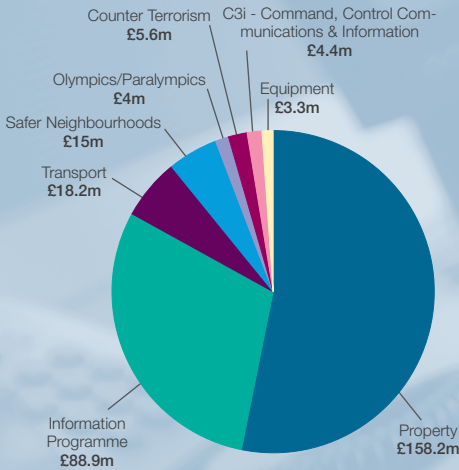
There are challenges ahead, funding will always be an issue and greater efficiencies will be expected of the Authority and Service, however the Authority is well positioned to meet future years' challenges.

For a full version of the 2008-09 accounts please access the MPA website at www.mpa.gov.uk



Capital Expenditure

Capital expenditure is expenditure on the acquisition, enhancement or creation of fixed assets. For 2008-09, total capital expenditure of £297.6m was on the following:



Funded by:

	£m
Capital Grants	58.4
Borrowing	151.0
Capital Receipts	83.1
Revenue Contribution	4.5
Other contributions	0.6
	297.6

The Authority's property portfolio which is located throughout London's boroughs includes 137 police stations, 596 residential properties, 96 investment properties and 374 operational buildings. These include Safer Neighbourhood bases, patrol bases, headquarter buildings and offices.

Audit Opinion

The District Auditor stated the financial position of the Authority was fairly presented within the Statement of Accounts as at 31 March 2009.

In addition, the District Auditor issued an unqualified value for money opinion, indicating that the Authority had made proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources for the year ended 31 March 2009.

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