

## **2.4 BTP Roles and Responsibilities**

BTP is the specialist police force for the railways. BTP officers are given enhanced training in key aspects of the railway industry and understand the importance of working in partnership with the railway industry.

As a national police force, BTP has a flexible command structure and different circumstances may dictate different models of response. The BTP Gold Commander will provide direction in respect of how the command structure will be implemented. The national guidance states that the Silver Commander should be suitably located to maintain effective tactical command of the incident, and the Gold Commander will be cognisant of this. Dependent upon the circumstances the BTP Silver Commander may be:

- Near the scene, e.g. at the Forward Command Point (FCP)
- At a nearby police station
- At a pre-designated Silver Control
- At the Force Control Room London or Birmingham (FCR (L) or (B))

During a major incident many of the responding agencies will have their Silver Commanders at the scene. Where the BTP Silver Commander is located away from the scene it is important to ensure that the BTP Commander on scene is aware of their responsibilities including attending (and probably chairing) the Silver Coordinating Group meetings.

## **2.5 Agreement on Responsibilities between BTP and Local Police Forces**

Agreement on responsibilities between BTP and the local police force will be subject to negotiation with all relevant local police forces at the outset of any major incident. Whilst most incidents on the railway fall within BTP's jurisdiction, the Chief Constable for the police area where the incident occurs will always retain responsibility for their geographical area and local community. The agreement will be flexible, in that a smaller local police force may not be able to utilise the same resources as a larger metropolitan local police force and BTP Chief Officers should liaise with their corresponding counterparts from the local police force, in order that an effective police response is provided.

Generally, in relation to uniform response, BTP will lead on matters within the inner cordon and on railway property, and the local police force will assist with the outer cordons and matters off railway property. Terrorist matters will have separate arrangements. BTP and the local police force will reach clear agreement on who is responsible for what functions relating to the major incident and discuss mutual aid dependent upon the circumstances. The local police force area where the major incident has happened will be extensively involved. There may be other police forces that assist the operation by providing specialist assets.

The BTP Gold Commander will ensure there is clear agreement on who is responsible for what activities. At the scene, the BTP Silver Commander will do the same with the local police force Silver Commander to ensure that they understand each others responsibilities. Clearly, each situation will be different dependent upon the nature and location of the event.