

HOC 25/2002

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**THIS CIRCULAR IS ABOUT: A PROTOCOL BETWEEN BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AND
HOME OFFICE POLICE FORCES**

FROM: PRU (POLICE RESOURCES UNIT) EXPIRY DATE: UNTIL REVISED

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: **SUE HAY**
PRU
HOME OFFICE
Tel: () DPA

CHRISTIAN PAPALEONTIOU
PRU
HOME OFFICE
Tel: () DPA

**THIS CIRCULAR IS ADDRESSED TO: ALL CHIEF OFFICERS OF POLICE OF
ENGLAND AND WALES**

**COPIES ARE BEING SENT TO: CLERKS TO POLICE AUTHORITIES
BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE/OTHERS**

Dear Chief Officer

Please see enclosed the Co-ordinated Policing Protocol between the British Transport Police (BTP) and Home Office police forces.

This protocol has been agreed by the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers, British Transport Police, the Department for Transport, Local Government and the Regions, the Association of Police Authorities and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary. The protocol applies only to England and Wales.

The protocol sets out the arrangements which will apply between the British Transport Police and Home Office police forces in the exercise of the British Transport Police's jurisdiction, as extended in the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001. More generally the protocol outlines areas of responsibility and accountability between BTP and Home Office forces, and makes provision for consultation and co-operation between the parties with the aim of delivering the best policing on the ground.

Police Resources Unit
Policing and Crime Reduction Group
Home Office

CO-ORDINATED POLICING PROTOCOL BETWEEN THE BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE AND HOME OFFICE POLICE FORCES

The Parties to the Protocol are the Chief Constable of the British Transport Police and Chief Constables of Home Office forces in England and Wales operating under the Police Act 1996.

This protocol provides for an efficient and effective working relationship between the British Transport Police and Home Office police forces, outlining where necessary areas of responsibility and accountability. It makes provision for consultation and co-operation between the two parties, with the aim of delivering the best policing on the ground.

This protocol also outlines how the parties intend that the extended jurisdiction given to the British Transport Police (in the Anti-terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001) to act in support of Home Office forces, including in immediate and urgent circumstances, will be exercised

1. Primary responsibility for the maintenance and enforcement of the criminal law throughout England and Wales rests with the chief officers of the '1996 Act' Police Forces (hereinafter described as 'local Chief Constables' and 'local police forces'). The references in this protocol to a local Chief Constable shall also include The Commissioner, Deputy Commissioner and Assistant Commissioners as appropriate, of the Metropolitan Police Service and the City of London Police.
2. Recognising the mutuality of the agreement, the Chief Constable of the British Transport Police and the local Chief Constables will endeavour to ensure regular consultation and timely exchange of information on matters of shared interest specifically in relation to:
 - a) policing matters which fall under the jurisdiction of the Chief Constable of the British Transport Police; and
 - b) cases or suspected cases of criminal offences concerning railway property or premises which come to the notice of local Chief Constables.
3. **Investigation of Criminal Offences**
The responsibility for the investigation of criminal offences committed within the jurisdiction of the British Transport Police set out under the British Transport Commission Act 1949 as amended by the Transport Police (Jurisdiction) Act 1994 and the Anti-Terrorism, Crime and Security Act 2001 will rest with the Chief Constable of the British Transport Police.
4. However, in relation to any crime or suspected crime of terrorism, or any incident of murder or suspicious death on railway premises, that force will take any immediate action necessary whilst simultaneously informing the local Chief Constable. Thereafter, the local Chief Constable in consultation with the Chief Constable of the British Transport Police will determine how the investigation should proceed.
5. Crime occurring within the jurisdiction of the British Transport Police will often have implications for local police forces. Similarly crime occurring outside such jurisdiction, investigated by local police forces, may have implications for the British Transport Police in their role. For example the British Transport Police may be investigating offences of