

Devon and Cornwall Police Authority Performance Management and Audit Committee

19 July 2005

Open for the purposes of FOI

Joint Report of Superintendent Ansell and the Chief Constable

Frontline Policing Measure

Recommendation(s):

- (i) **To note the contents of this report**

Introduction / Summary

1. This paper outlines the current position of Devon & Cornwall Constabulary with regard to Frontline Policing, the potential implications of this, and the actions that have been taken as a result.

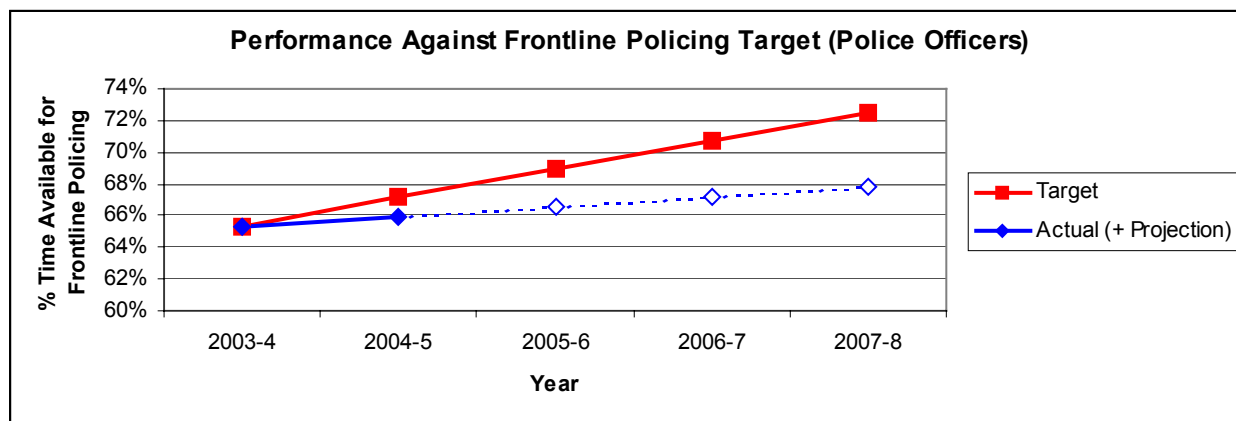
Background Information

2. The Frontline Policing measure is: "Of police officer time, the percentage available for frontline policing".
3. This is calculated using HMIC returns ADR601 (Personnel), BVPI 26 (average number of days of sickness) and ABC activity data for Response, CID and Traffic Officers.
4. In 2003-4 D&CC were highest in their group of similar Forces on this measure, at 65.4% of police officer time available for Frontline Policing.
5. Along with all other Forces, the target for D&CC is to increase this measure to 72.5% by 2007-8.

Current Position

6. The table and chart below outline the current position for D&CC, and includes the same calculations for police staff:

Factor	2004-5	2003-4
Time Available for Frontline Policing (Police Officers)	65.97%	65.36%
Time Available for Frontline Policing (Police Staff)	56.22%	53.97%



7. While an increase in frontline policing has been recorded for 2004-5, it is not of sufficient magnitude to meet the target of 67%.

Financial Implications

8. The Home Office have provided a formula by which increases in the percentage of frontline policing (for both police officers and police staff) can be converted to non-cashable efficiency gains.
9. While a decrease in frontline policing does not count against efficiency gains, this does represent a missed opportunity to count an efficiency gain.

Personnel Implications

10. National guidance suggests that the levels of frontline policing can be improved by increasing the number of officers in frontline roles.
11. Home Office return AD601 categorises police officers and staff into groups. For each group, the Home Office has determined whether they should be treated as 100% Frontline, Part Frontline (depending on the results of their ABC activity surveys) or Non Frontline.

Overview of Our Position

12. A working group was established to look at this measure and how it might be achieved.
13. The findings of this group were that the measure is overly complex and that the target set is not realistic.

Actions Taken

14. Deputy Chief Constable Arnold has written to Stephen Rimmer (Head of Policing Policy at the Home Office) outlining the reasons for concern over this measure and to make some suggestions regarding potential improvements to the measure.
15. A copy of this letter is attached at Appendix A, along with Stephen Rimmer's reply at Appendix B.

Contact: Liz Tull, Activity Based Costing Analyst. Tel. 01392 452804
Elizabeth.Tull@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk