



**BUSINESS PROTECTION POLICY GROUP MEETING
ANDERSON STRATHERN, RUTLAND COURT, EDINBURGH
1030-1230 THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER 2009**

MINUTES

Attendees:

Mike McCormick (MM)	Lothian and Borders Police
Gill McMurray (GMc)	Lothian and Borders Police
Roy Durie (RD)	Rydens LLP
John Mullan (JM)	Lothian Buses
Russell Brownlie	JRB Risk identification, Assessment & Control
Michael Carter	Advance Security
Paul Mackie	Dat Pro
Paul Hendy	Scottish Flood Forum

1. Welcome

Mike McCormick welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance.

Mike introduced himself to members of the group and explained his intention to retain the Chair of the group following the appointment of a new Deputy Chief Constable to Lothian and Borders Police. The area of Business Protection fits in with the Prevention strategy which Mike will lead on as Assistant Chief Constable Operations.

2. Apologies

Mary-Ellen Lang	City of Edinburgh Council
Dr Alison McCallum	NHS
Jamie McPherson	
Graham Birse	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce
Sharon Ritchie	Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce

3. Minutes of Last Meeting

The minutes of the last meeting were discussed and accepted as a true record of the meeting. Paul Mackie (PM) requested that an amendment be made to his comments regarding CCTV in that it forms part of a wider solution.

4. Action Updates – Gill McMurray

Action 8/09 – Gill McMurray and Paul Mackie to meet and complete work on fact sheet regarding security risks.

Action 9/09 – Provision of further Retail Crime Events. Gill advised the group of the intention to revisit this topic in the New year and gave a brief overview 'Checkout' a new information sharing system for Edinburgh retailers, launched on the 25th of November. Gill will investigate the possibility of having an input given to the group members.

5. Presentation – Sarah Dougan – E-Security Exchange

Sarah introduced herself to the group and gave an overview of the work of E-Security Exchange and the professionals who undertake a variety of work.

E-Security Exchange is a company providing an online learning portal and is backed by Scottish Enterprise.

Sarah spoke about some of the areas where work is being carried out including, imbedding security in IT systems at the outset/purchase stage, the Bribery Bill and its implications for company liability, data privacy, fraud and computer forensics and the penalties for Data Protection breaches as discussed at the recent Data Protection Conference.

Further discussion followed surrounding the issue of companies turning a blind eye to data theft and citing that the cost and time implications for security training outweighed any losses. What can be done to convince companies to act???

MM – police and public bodies have a vested interest in keeping data safe in terms of public confidence and image.

JRB - similar to H&S where bottom line is more important than corporate reputation.

RD – problems with reporting structures not being widely known.

Pm – people are ignorant of Data protection law and when a large, well known firm is hit by legislation and penalties others will take note.

SD - A marketing and education campaign is being developed with Scottish Enterprise funding to promote compliance as a positive (increased sales etc).

PH – where costs are passed on to customers, where is the incentive to comply?

MM – key is making individuals responsible.

Link to e-security website

6. Items for Discussion:

6.1 Standing Items

6.1.1 Sub Group Review

This item was not addressed at this meeting.

6.1.2 Recession/Economic Climate – Health, Economy & Crime

Mike McCormick gave an update on Crime figures for Edinburgh and a copy of the figures are attached with these minutes.

The figures particularly in respect of shoplifting need to be reviewed in conjunction with the knowledge that a loss in the numbers of security staff may have an impact on reporting levels and apprehension of offenders.

Mike McCormick gave an input on the current crime figures, looking at the Lothian and Borders force as a whole and specifically the City of Edinburgh.

	FORCE	EDINBURGH CITY
Shoplifting	3 year ave +0.01% LYTD -10%	3 year ave -1% LYTD -14%
Housebreakings		
Business	3 year ave -10% LYTD +22.6%	3 year ave -20% LYTD -30%
Dwellings	3 year ave +15% LYTD +14%	3 year ave +10% LYTD +17%
Fraud	LYTD - 6%	LYTD - 4%
Crimes of Dishonesty _ total	3 year ave +0.7% LYTD - 6%	3 year ave -1.6% LYTD -8%

(LYTD) – 1/4/08 to 31/10/08 compared to 1/4/09 to 31/10/09.

The figures shown are subject to the caveat that these represent recorded crime levels. We can't be sure whether reporting rates are complete or whether they are more or less complete than in previous years. It is possible that a lack of security staff impacts on reporting and apprehension levels.

The group then had a discussion around crime recording and reporting. PM stated that Tesco is apparently writing off £180 million per year, deciding that it is not worth reporting certain levels of theft due to the loss of staff time for court attendance etc. MM - The Scottish Crime and Justice Survey stated that although there is twice the rate of reported crime, peoples perception of crime is the same or less than a year ago. MC – Advanced Security work with Tesco. Their losses are measured but only result in a small number of arrests. Is it the case that the only losses that are reported are those that result in a culprit?

ACTION – GMc – To tap into companies regarding loss prevention figures versus reported crimes. Consider possible usage by analysts.

SD – mentioned that some companies include security awareness within their incentive and bonus schemes.

KS stated that information sharing re losses and the types of crime affecting businesses may help in preventing further crimes.

PM – Could Chamber website be utilised to share information?

ACTION – GMc – Consider a method of collating details of data theft between companies.

Kevin Smith, A division Delphinus Unit gave a presentation on current National Security Issues and the work of the Delphinus Unit in Edinburgh.

The current threat level is set at substantial.

Delphinus is a unique partnership to enhance and develop the Edinburgh Infrastructure. Working within the governments CONTEST strategy and the 4 P's – Prevent, Prepare, Pursue, Protect. Work to assist businesses prepare for major incidents and disaster recovery.

'Bridgecall' is a conference call system used to cascade information to Project Griffin affiliated companies, during a major incident.

It has a text message capacity and can be used to pass key information instantly.

'Bridgecall' was used during the 2005 London bombings and subsequently developed into a weekly call to provide current information on crime trends and prevention. Followed up by e-mail, allowing for a two-way flow of information. The hope is that 'Bridgecall' will be launched for Edinburgh in January.

PM – It would appear that the work behind the 4 P's fits into crime in general as well as CT issues.

SD queried the security of the Bridgecall system.

KS explained that the numbers change weekly and the network is secure.

MC asked if the change in threat levels has an impact on resources and does this make other areas more vulnerable?

MM explained that although the focus and awareness levels will change response to incidents should remain the same.

Pm asked about the situation with football matches being staffed mainly by stewards as opposed to police officers.

MM explained that the security outcomes will not change as police officers will still be present as will a police command feature. Risk assessments on the day will dictate the profile of police at any given event.

MM explained to the group that with the end of Gill McMurray's tenure to the Chamber is coming to an end, consideration was being given to the future of the post given issues with funding and a continuity of the core functions of the post.

ACTION – GMc to consider press release to highlight the work of the group set against the current crime figures.

6.1.3 –Communication

GMc – Advised that the Business Community section of the Lothian and Borders was now live and linked to a number of key partners.

6.2 – Swine Flu impact

GB –The media reports that the swine flu epidemic is receding, what impact has the epidemic had on businesses?

CJ – We still are in epidemic, the initial concerns regarding the death rate have not proved to be any worse than those of seasonal flu.

Possible resurgence in colder weather but again is unknown of this will be worse than seasonal flu. A November peak is predicted.

It is possible that there could be a 25-40% absence rate due to illness and staff caring for other family members. Vaccines are still not available but priority groups will be treated first.

AMc – Sheraton ran a tabletop exercise to look at the impact of staff shortage and looking at the training of staff and backfilling of certain key roles.

JM – Massive impact on transport infrastructure but impossible to plan in advance.

NK – businesses must plan for the worst and hope for the best with adaptable plans in place, giving cognisance to the wider picture.

MM –similarly the police look at models prioritising to take account of the resources available.

PM – Is there a way of utilising web to promote good advice/best practice to SME's.

ACTION – GMc to add to information currently on Chamber website regarding Swine Flu.

6.3 Check-In Hotel Group – update

AMc provided the group with an overview and update of the 'Check-in Hotel Group' – an early warning, intelligence sharing scheme between hotels

used to assist in crime and fraud prevention, reduction in anti-social behaviour.

There are approximately 80 hotels involved and crime levels are down as a result.

Considering the inclusion of B&B's and guesthouses to the scheme.

7.0 Future Events

GMc updated the group as to the upcoming events timetable.

8.0 AOCB

PM asked whether the release of the Lockerbie bomber would have an impact on Edinburgh and business in general.

GB - the reaction from the US has been very strong with visit Scotland receiving a number of adverse communications. It is unknown whether this is just an immediate initial reaction. If it is long-term then will be far-reaching consequences on tourism and whisky industry etc.

MM-there is no intelligence to suggest any heightened risk in terms of security.

GB – asked if Mike McCormick would be happy to take on the role of the Chair to the group.

MM-happy to do so but mindful of ensuring does not become a police agenda.

PM – seconds the motion to have Mike in the Chair.

GB-will ensure vice-chair remains from another sector.

Any member of the group who would be interested in taking up the post of vice chair should contact Gill directly on gill.mcmurray@edinburghchamber.co.uk.

9.0 Date and venue of next meeting

Next meeting – 26th November 2009 at 10.30am

Anyone able to offer a suitable venue should contact Gill.