

Efficiency Plan

The Constabulary has prepared an efficiency plan in response to the Home Secretary's annual requirement for the police service, to demonstrate that in 2004/05 it will achieve efficiency gains equivalent to 2 per cent of annual expenditure. The plan details how the organisation, individual Basic Command Units (BCUs) and departments will achieve increased efficiency.

The annual efficiency plan is developed and monitored on behalf of the Authority by its Financial Affairs Panel. Within the Constabulary, the plan is managed by the Director of Finance, reporting to the Chief Constable's ACPO (Association of Chief Police Officers) Group.

As last year, in 2004/05 the Home Office and Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) will receive regular reports. As part of a formal certification process HMIC will be making several visits over the course of the year to assess the probability of achieving the plan.

Nominated liaison officers within BCUs and departments have been appointed to act as focus points to capture and collate efficiency plan initiatives at a local level and to promote an operational focus.

2004/05

For 2004/05, 2 per cent efficiency gains equate to £5.2m. Efficiency savings as defined by the Home Office may be realisable as cash for reinvestment in policing to meet Home Office objectives, or opportunity savings where better use is made of resources.

No allowance is made for police forces, such as Hampshire Constabulary, which may already have made significant efficiency gains or is already performing well against measures of performance.

As in previous years, options for reinvestment of any cash savings into frontline policing will be approved as part of the revised budget process later in the financial year, to allow the Authority to respond to future needs and priorities.

Initiatives to be progressed during 2004/05 in order to demonstrate 2 per cent efficiency gains are shown in the table on page 70. As in previous years, efficiency savings are likely to be recycled into frontline policing.

2002/03 and 2003/04

For 2002/03 the Authority achieved a surplus of £2.8m against its efficiency plan target of £4.6m. In 2003/04 the target was set at £5.1m and, again, the Authority is currently on target to achieve cashable and non-cashable gains. HMIC awarded an A rating to the 2002/03 plan. It is anticipated an A rating will be awarded for the 2003/04 plan.

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Summary of initiatives 2004/05

	Non-cashable £000	Cashable £000	Total £000
Bureaucracy task force			
Crime screening - vehicle crime	400		400
Crime screening - theft	440		440
Effective use of storage facilities	1,500		1,500
Best Value review			
Car jet wash facilities	41		41
Other initiatives			
DNA samples and crime scene stain submissions		200	200
Managing-down overtime		350	350
Command and control web access	396	32	428
Digital images prisoner photographs	147	41	188
Police vehicle diagnostic system		10	10
Police officers returning to frontline duties	1,643		1,643
Total of main plan			5,200
Non-cashable	4,567		
Cashable		633	

As part of the Police Reform agenda it was determined by the Home Office that police overtime would be reduced by 15 per cent over three years from April 1, 2003. Working from a baseline figure of £7.02m the 15 per cent target over three years represents £1.05m or £0.35m per annum.