

Security

ATOC's view

- ATOC and train operating companies are committed to a railway that is safe and secure for passengers to use, which is vital if more people are to be encouraged to travel by rail. The improvements of the past few years, particularly in the visibility of policing and the provision of better facilities for the protection and assistance of passengers, have been significant in reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- Train operators are investing heavily in measures to improve personal security for passengers. They contributed £122 million in 2010/11 to the funding of the British Transport Police (BTP) – 40% more than five years ago. In addition, £10 million is being spent on dedicated security staff to work alongside BTP officers to provide even greater security for passengers. This includes a £6 million contribution from Transport for London (over two years) to help to clamp down on low level crime and disorder at over 100 outer London stations.
- Crime on the rail network has reduced – now five years in a row: in 2009/10 there were over 21,000 fewer recorded crimes than in 2003/04.
- This is reflected in passenger satisfaction with security on the railway which shows a gradually improving trend. 65% of passengers are satisfied with their personal security whilst using stations and 75% on board trains according to the most recent National Passenger Survey (Spring 2010).
- It is important that the industry continues to invest in appropriate levels of policing and more advanced technology so that the rail travel environment for passengers continues to improve and levels of crime decline.

Background and key issues

- A potential threat to the rail industry comes from terrorism. The incidents in Madrid (2004) and London (2005) serve to illustrate that the rail network could face a real and significant threat from terrorists. Dealing with this threat is expensive and there is also a risk that the deployment of resources away from normal crime prevention and detection could adversely affect the level of non-terrorism related crime.
- The increase in passenger numbers in recent years has led to calls for increased police provision, though it can be argued that more people are travelling is in itself a deterrent to potential criminals and therefore will lead to reduced levels of some kinds of crime. The recession has had an impact on reducing passenger growth and it is too early to say what effect it is having on crime patterns on the railway.
- As at September 2010, the BTP had a total of 2901 Police Officers, 316 Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs), 1,349 non-warranted Police Staff and 199 Special Constables.
- In addition to the BTP's presence the train companies employ additional staff, costing £4 million annually, in a number of roles in order to reduce crime and disorder on the railway:
 - Rail Enforcement Officers - with powers to support BTP in deterring crime and disorder, public nuisance and anti-social behaviour;
 - Rail Community Officers - to patrol stations and trains;