

## **2012 Olympics**

### **Driver – Social**

Related Drivers – Counter Terrorism, Collection & Storage of Personal Information, E-Crime / Cybercrime, Equality, Diversity & Human Rights, Fraud, Organised Crime, Border, Security & Immigration, Public Order Policing, Airwave, CCTV, Facial Recognition, Advances in Technology, Data Mining, Incident Management, Information Sharing, Human Trafficking, Prostitution, Migration, Public Confidence in Policing, G20 / Public Order Tactics, Race & Crime, Public Perceptions of Policing, Stop & Search, Jean Charles de Menzes Shooting

### **Background**

On 24 August 2008, London Mayor Boris Johnson received the Olympic Flag and London began the reign as official Olympic host city for the 2012 Olympics.

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) is leading on delivering security for the Olympics through the Olympic Security Directorate (OSD) set up under the Central Operations Strand of MPS. The OSD brings together 24 partner agencies, from fire and ambulance services to private security, to provide safety, security and resilience to the Games.

The scope of the games will include:

- Nine million spectators
- 33 venues
- 19 days of competition
- Up to 500,000 spectators a day
- 15,000 athletes
- 20,000 media representatives
- 200 Heads of State.<sup>1</sup>

As well as policing the Olympics, normal levels of policing for London will continue in London and across England & Wales. Although headlines may concentrate on the very real terrorist threats, policing concerns expand past terrorism to public safety and publicity-seeking demonstrations to petty crime and pick pocketing.

More than 9,000 police officers will be required at the peak of the London 2012 Olympics incorporated across 60 days (including Olympics and Paralympics).<sup>2</sup> Officers will be drafted into the capital from across the country as well as volunteers and community support officers.

The first line of policing for the games will be technology. Technology will play key role in policing the Olympics through the establishment of a technology footprint across London. CCTV as well as high-tech ticketing can be used to track spectators. Further technological

tools include identity-recognition techniques to monitor crowds, enhanced car number-plate recognition and new helicopters to carry out close surveillance during the games.

The second line of security is police officers and private security firms. The third level is command and control to deal swiftly with any incidents.

The complexity of the task of policing the Olympics may put strain on regional and national policing. For example, South Yorkshire Police Chief Meredydd Hughes reports that there are fewer officers in some key specialist fields than will be needed for 2012.<sup>3</sup> These specialists include firearms officers, anti-terrorist staff and dog handlers.

On the technology front, Scotland Yard Deputy Assistant Commissioner Janet Williams cautioned that criminals may be preparing sophisticated electronic attacks on athlete protection arrangements, the transport infrastructure, sponsorship deals and ticketing. The 2012 London Olympics are a clear target for international organised criminal networks. The police were investigating a series of front companies that could be used in complex frauds carried out on the internet. Similar conspiracies were witnessed during the Beijing Olympics last August and work is under way to protect next year's Winter Olympics in Vancouver according to Williams.

Speaking in Manchester at the Association of Chief Police Officers annual conference, Williams said "We know from Canada and Beijing that the threats are real and they have grown in the last six months." She said criminal networks in recent months have targeted London hospitals, police forces and major private companies, including well-known online retailers.

"Very recently we have had three London hospitals badly affected, that was identified as computer viruses overloading the systems," she said "we have had police forces who have lost considerable parts of their capability for considerable periods of time and we have had attacks that have stopped other public services." According to Williams there is a lot yet to achieve in preparation for e-crime linked to the Olympics.<sup>4</sup>

Another issue which deals specifically with the Olympics but will be covered in more detail in another section, (see Social Driver – [G20 / Public Order Policing](#)) is public order policing.

Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of the Constabulary, Denis O'Connor recently conducted a review of policing tactics at the G20 Summit in April 2009. The review supports the view of senior MPS officers that training in both tactics and use of force needs to be adjusted to meet the challenges of 21st Century protest.

In particular the Chief Inspector recommends a review of current public order training to ensure it reflects the full spectrum of public order activity including:

- Peaceful protest
- Consistently incorporates relevant human rights principles and standards (as demonstrated with Officer Safety Training)

- Consideration of use of force by individuals during collective action such as public order operations.

Alongside the recommendation to review public order training, the ACPO Public Order Manual is being revised to include areas such as confinement and the release of peaceful protest. The Chief Inspector found the treatment of the spectrum of protest activity in the current ACPO manual to be insufficient.

He makes the case that there is a clear need for consistency and standardisation in advance of the 2012 Olympics (where cross force co-operation will be critical to success) to make current mutual support between different forces more reliable and effective.<sup>5</sup>

## **Potential Skills Needs**

**Communication skills** – with the wide range of Olympic attendees

**Counter terrorism skills** – mix of skills geared towards combating terrorism

**Critical incident management skills** – recognise and effectively manage critical incidents

**Customer service skills** – ensure a consistent high quality service

**Cybercrime intelligence gathering skills** – to scan multiple data sources and follow leads regarding cybercrime

**Equality and diversity skills** – to treat people appropriately and sensitively in line with human rights legislations.

**Information sharing skills** – to provide effective information to partner agencies both in the UK and abroad

**Inter-agency working skills** – to work effectively with two or more governmental agencies

**IT skills** – in the use of mobile technology and other security related software.

**Multi-agency working skills** – to work with other agencies to deliver a safe and secure 2012 Olympics

**Operational policing skills** – to deliver high visibility policing operations

**Public order policing skills** – to deliver public order policing tactics in line with recommendations from HMIC in regards to review of G20 policing tactics.

**Resource management skills** – ensuring the right skills levels are available for specialist Olympic security roles and 'normal' frontline policing duties simultaneously

**'Soft' skills** – personal qualities and interpersonal skills necessary to effectively deal with the public

**Technical skills** – ensure the availability of specialist policing skills such as firearm protection, dog handlers, anti-terror etc.

- <sup>1</sup> [BBC News Online, 10 April 2008, 'Torch lessons for 2012 Olympic Security'](#).
- <sup>2</sup> [The Guardian Online, 17 March 2007, 'Capital will need 9,000 officers a day to police 2012 Olympics'](#).
- <sup>3</sup> [Yorkshire Post, 6 October 2008, 'Fears for Olympics as police forces make cuts'](#).
- <sup>4</sup> [The Guardian Online, 8 July 2009, 'Cyber-criminals preparing to target London 2012 Olympics , police warn'](#).
- <sup>5</sup> [O'Conner, Denis \(2009\) \*Adapting to Protest\*. London: HMIC.](#)