

**DAC Ron McPherson**

Directorate of Information  
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Dear Ron

**Airwave radios – coverage issues**

At the meeting of the Metropolitan Police Authority on 25 January 2007, you presented a paper on C3i / Airwave. In that paper, there was reference to coverage issues, both above and below ground.

The 7 July Review Committee is in the process of compiling its follow-up report, assessing progress made in implementing the recommendations made in its report of June 2006. As part of that report we will be considering the rollout of Airwave radios.

As discussed at the MPA meeting, please can you provide the Committee with the following information, by Friday 16 February, in order that the Committee may be fully informed of the issues?

1. In each Borough where Airwave has been rolled out, what assessment has been made of the extent of the shortfalls in coverage of Airwave radios above ground, eg in buildings?
2. What assessment has been made of the extent of the limitations in coverage on the LUL network?
3. How does the coverage achieved by Airwave above ground compare to the coverage provided by existing police radios?
4. What corrective actions have been identified, and what interim arrangements and guidance have been developed and discharged? To what extent will these actions address the limitations in coverage (a) in the short term, and (b) in the long term?
5. What is the nature of the 'perceived and actual' limitations in Emergency Activation, what is being done to address those limitations, and to what extent is it going to be possible to address the limitations?
6. What is the nature and extent of the hardware issues that have been identified?

7. What is the nature and extent of the issues relating to software capability and upgrade?
8. What is the nature and extent of the problems relating to crossing and patching talk groups?
9. What corrective actions and interim solutions have been identified to address the hardware issues, limitations in Emergency Activation, issues relating to software capability and upgrade, and crossing and patching talk groups, and to what extent will these actions address the problems?
10. Have any problems been identified with the support channel, and if so what corrective actions have been identified?
11. Have any other problems been identified during the rollout of Airwave which have not yet been resolved? If so please provide details of the problems and what corrective actions are planned.

If you would like any clarification, please contact Janet Hughes, Head of Scrutiny and Investigations, on 020 7983 4423.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Richard Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard Barnes  
Chair of the Committee

- c. Ailsa Beaton, Director of Information
- c. Catherine Crawford, Chief Executive, Metropolitan Police Authority
- c. Members of the 7 July Review Committee