

Telephone: 020-7601-2004

Fax: 020-7601-2060

Our Ref:

Your Ref:



City of London Police  
Headquarters  
PO Box 36451  
London  
EC2M 4WN

21<sup>st</sup> February 2007

**Mike Bowron**  
**Commissioner**

Richard Barnes AM  
Chair of the 7 July Review Committee  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London SE1 2AA

*Dear Richard*

**Airwave Rollout and use of alternative radio communications within the City of London Police**

Thank you for your letter of 8<sup>th</sup> February regarding the roll-out of Airwave radio within the City of London. I am pleased to tell you that the project was a huge success with very few problems being experienced.

The main issue from our point of view was user awareness of the different technology. Unlike analogue radio, digital radio does not allow units to over-talk each other, so our users have to wait for their "slot" on the network before speaking. Also, there is a slight delay between pressing the transmit switch and actually being able to transmit the message. These differences over our legacy radio system did cause some frustration for our staff in the early days but are now no longer a concern.

We have not experienced too many coverage issues within the City of London. Our base stations were placed to ensure that our major high-rise residential areas received adequate coverage. Therefore this has not caused us any operational issues.

Finally, we have not had to increase staffing to implement the Airwave radio system. Although there are many more talk groups, all users are aware that only certain ones are continually monitored, these being the force-wide channel used for assigning calls and another channel utilised for intelligence and information enquiries.

Overall I am pleased to say our experience with Airwave has been positive. I was personally involved in a major policing operation that covered the south of England and required co-operation with a number of forces. The clarity of transmission received within my Force control room from the other areas of the country spoke volumes for the benefits that Airwave provides.

I trust this information has been helpful.

*Kind regards*  
*Mike*