

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary  
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Inspecting policing  
in the public interest

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RECEIVED  
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John Biggs AM  
Chairman of the Budget and Performance Committee  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

09 September 2011

*Dear John,*

Following our meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> September, I would like to take the opportunity to say how useful it was to not only review the recommendation of the assembly report, "Policing in London", but to also explore how HMIC and our products can assist the assembly in its duty to scrutinise Metropolitan Police Service performance.

Specifically, in relation to recommendation 4 of the report; whilst we recognise the value and efficacy of the OPM analysis, we feel that the availability model as laid out in "Demanding Times"<sup>1</sup> offers a very similar view of resource allocation. It has the advantage of having been formulated with the involvement of ACPO, APA, APACE, MPS and the staff associations. Although it is not perfect - or indeed universally accepted - it does provide a consistent view that can be used to look at not just a snapshot, but also trends over time. Such an approach, coupled with the use of the detail contained in the HMIC "Value for Money" profiles offers, at the very least, a real chance of identifying what questions to ask and what answers may need further exploration.

Once again, I thank you for seeking our view on these matters and I look forward to working more closely with the assembly and officials in the future.

Yours sincerely,

**Vic Towell**  
HM Assistant Inspector of Constabulary

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<sup>1</sup> Demanding Times, HMIC March 2011