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BRITISH TRANSPORT POLICE

The British Transport Police (BTP) is a national special police force that polices railways and light-rail systems in England, Wales and Scotland, for which it has entered into an agreement to provide such services. The force is funded primarily by the rail industry, and does not receive central government funding.

British Transport Police officers do not have jurisdiction in Northern Ireland unless working under mutual aid arrangements for the Police Service of Northern Ireland, in which case any duties performed on a railway will be merely incidental to working as a constable in Northern Ireland.

As of October 2020, BTP had a workforce of 3,069 police officers, 1,689 police staff, 362 police community support officers, 300 special constables. In terms of officer numbers it is the largest of the three special police forces and the 11th largest police force in the United Kingdom overall. Since March 2014, the Chief Constable has been Paul Crowther OBE. [1]

BTP is divided into four divisions:

• Force Headquarters or A Division

FHQ retains overall command of our activity and houses central departments and functions, including responsibility for resources such as forensics, CCTV and major investigations. The headquarters are in Camden Town, London.

• B Division

London and the South East of England are vital areas of rail travel. It accounts for the majority of passenger journeys in Britain across East

Anglia, the south coast and the capital, including London Underground and Docklands Light Railway.

• C Division

Pennine, Midlands, South West and Wales is the largest of the divisions, covering rail networks beyond the South East. It includes the policing of major transport hubs such as Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester.

• D Division

Scotland is a unique division working under Scottish law and legislation that requires dedicated officers to police their railways. [2]

Under s.31 of the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003, British Transport Police officers have "all the power and privileges of a constable" when:

- on track,
- on network.
- in a station,
- in a light maintenance depot,
- on other land used for purposes of or in relation to a railway,
- on other land in which a person who provides railway services has a freehold or leasehold interest, and
- throughout Great Britain for a purpose connected to a railway or to anything occurring on or in relation to a railway. [3]

BTP officers are able to use their powers on or off duty and in uniform or plain clothes regardless of whether they are in possession of their warrant card. BTP uniforms are similar and the rank system identical to other British police forces. The distinctive black jerseys with a black and white chequered pattern on the yoke have been replaced with black Windstopper fleeces.

Railway crimes 8.6 million people use the rail network every day and mission BTP is to help get people home safe, secure and on time. Police Britain's railways, providing a service to rail operators, their staff and passengers across the country. Also police the London Underground, Docklands Light Railway, the Midland Metro tram system, Croydon Tramlink, Tyne and Wear Metro, Glasgow Subway and Emirates AirLine [4].

Here are some articles taken from the official British Transport Police wedside.

The first one is about women who stealing luggage on a train to Cardiff. On 11 September 2018, Al-Fahad boarded a service from London Paddington to Cardiff Central station. On boarding the service, she struck up a conversation with a fellow female passenger, offering to help with her luggage. As she left the service, Al-Fahad picked up her bag from the luggage rack and stole the victim's suitcase at the same time. The victim

didn't realise her luggage had been taken until her arrival at Swansea station. Following CCTV footage and enquiries with the Paddington ticket office, officers were able to trace the bank card transaction and identify Al-Fahad.

On 12 November 2018, officers attended her address where they found the majority of the items from the suitcase, containing designer clothes and jewellery, which came to a total value of £76,559. Officers examined the items and established they were genuine and belonged to the victim. [5]

Al-Fahad later pleaded guilty to theft. Hajar Hamad Al-Fahad, 26, and of Blackmoor place, Llanrumney, was sentenced at Cardiff Crown Court on Thursday 10 September. She was handed a sentence of eight months in prison, suspended for 12 months, and was ordered to carry out a 20-day rehabilitation activity requirement and 150 hours unpaid work.

The second one is about assault at Oxford Circus underground station. Just after 8pm on 23 August, the victim alighted from a southbound Bakerloo Line train onto the Oxford Circus underground platform. The victim was then approached by a man he didn't know who asked if he was Muslim. A verbal exchange took place before the victim was lifted into the air by the man and thrown to the floor, causing the victim facial injuries and bruising to his limbs and body. The identity of the offender is established and verified.

The third story is about following train derailment. British Transport Police (BTP) were called to the line in Stonehaven, Aberdeenshire at 09.43am this morning (12 August) following a report that a train travelling from Aberdeen to Glasgow Queen Street had derailed. Very sadly despite the best efforts of paramedics, we can confirm that three people have been pronounced dead at the scene. Six people have been taken to hospital to be treated for injuries, which thankfully are not believed to be serious.

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