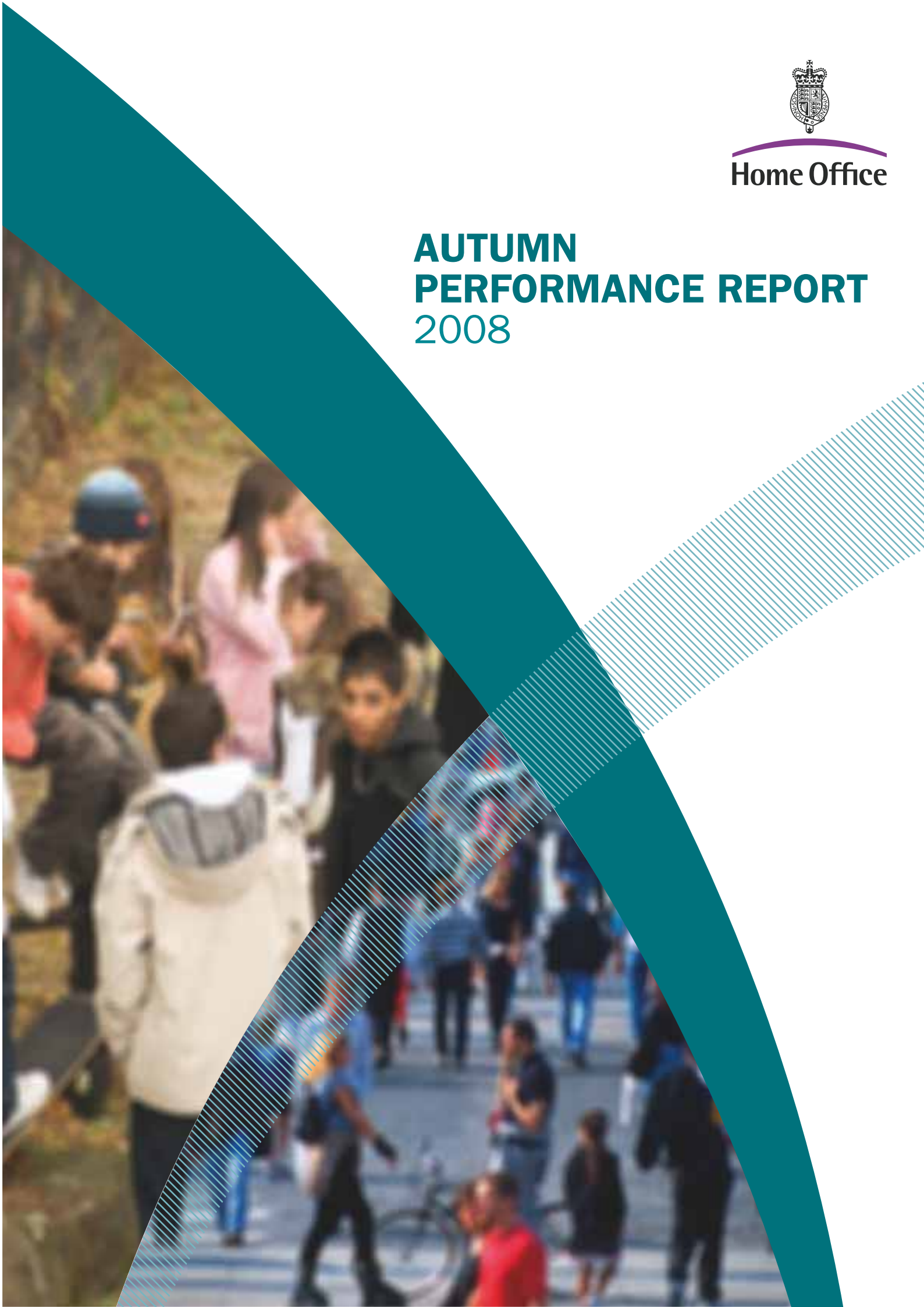




Home Office

AUTUMN PERFORMANCE REPORT 2008





Home Office Autumn Performance Report 2008

Presented to Parliament by
the Secretary of State for the Home Department
by Command of her Majesty

December 2008

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Introduction by the Home Secretary: Jacqui Smith



I am pleased to introduce the 2008 Autumn Performance Report for the Home Office that presents our performance against the priorities we set in the 2007 and 2004 Spending Reviews (SR07 and SR04). It also reports on any SR02 targets that are still current and includes a report on progress with implementing outstanding Public Accounts Committee (PAC) recommendations.

2007–08 was the last year of the 2004 Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and we have final data for crime, confidence and offences brought to justice – all those targets have been met. For example:

- crime has fallen by 18 per cent; and
- the number of offences brought to justice has increased to 1.446 million.

The latest data also shows that we are ahead of our target to reduce unfounded asylum claims and we are on course to reduce the harm caused by drugs. These achievements are a tribute to the valuable contribution made by many of our partners.

As the SR04 PSAs come to an end we introduce a new, streamlined set which will run to 2010–11. They mark a move away from the culture of central target setting, contribute to the promise made in the Policing Green Paper to reduce burdens, and reflect the Home Office's most important priorities, including:

- tackling the most serious crime;
- improving public confidence in action to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour;
- reducing the harm caused by alcohol and drugs;
- ensuring controlled, fair migration that protects the public and contributes to economic growth; and
- reducing the risk from terrorism.

Performance against many of these indicators will be assessed over the coming months and published in future Departmental Annual and Autumn Performance Reports.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. Below the signature is a long, horizontal, wavy line that extends to the right, serving as a decorative flourish or underline.

The Rt Hon Jacqui Smith MP

Summary Tables

Summary of Spending Review 2007 (SR07) Public Service Agreement (PSA) Performance

This section provides a summary of progress against each PSA. The Spending Review 2007 (SR07) PSA performance indicators came into effect in April 2008 and we are able to make the performance assessments set out below where we have both baseline data and comparable data for subsequent periods. Performance against the remaining indicators will be assessed over the coming months as further data becomes available and assessments will be published in future Departmental Annual Reports and Autumn Performance Reports. Where possible, we have indicated when this data will be available in the SR07 tables from pages 9 to 15.

PSA		PROGRESS
PSA 3	Ensure controlled, fair migration that protects the public and contributes to economic growth.	Overall: Not yet assessed Deliver robust identity management systems at the UK border: Not yet assessed Reduce the time to conclusion for asylum applications: Improvement Increase the number of removals year-on-year: Improvement Increase the number of 'harm' cases removed as a proportion of total cases removed: Not yet assessed By the effective management of migration, reduce the vacancy rate in shortage occupations: Not yet assessed
PSA 23	Make communities safer.	Overall: Not yet assessed Level of most serious violent crimes: Not yet assessed Level of serious acquisitive crimes: Not yet assessed Public confidence in local agencies involved in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour: Not yet assessed Percentage of people perceiving anti-social behaviour as a problem: Not yet assessed Level of proven re-offending by young and adult offenders: Improvement Level of serious re-offending: Improvement
PSA 25	Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs.	Overall: Not yet assessed Percentage change in the number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment: Improvement Rate of hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm: Not yet assessed Rate of drug related offending: Not yet assessed Percentage of the public who perceive drug use or dealing to be a problem in their area: Not yet assessed Percentage of the public who perceive drunk and rowdy behaviour to be a problem in their area: Not yet assessed
PSA 26	Reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism.	Overall: Classified

Summary of Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs) Performance

DSO		LATEST OUTTURN
DSO 1	Help people feel secure in their homes and local communities.	This is the overall departmental strategic objective (DSO) reflecting delivery of all the following DSO's. Overall: Not yet assessed
DSO 2	Cut crime, especially violent, drug and alcohol related crime.	This DSO is aligned to delivery of PSA 23 and PSA 25. Overall: Not yet assessed
DSO 3	Lead visible, responsive and accountable policing.	This DSO is aligned to delivery of PSA 23. Overall: Not yet assessed
DSO 4	Protect the Public from terrorism.	This DSO is aligned to delivery of PSA 26. Overall: Classified
DSO 5	Secure our borders and control migration for the benefit of our country.	This DSO is aligned to delivery of PSA 3. Overall: Not yet assessed
DSO 6	Safeguard people's identity and the privileges of citizenship.	Overall: Strong Progress
DSO 7	Support the efficient and effective delivery of justice.	This DSO is aligned to delivery of PSA 24. Overall: Not yet Assessed

Summary of Spending Review 2004 (SR04) PSA Performance

PSA		PROGRESS
PSA 1	Reduce crime by 15 per cent, and further in High Crime Areas, by 2007–08.	Overall: Met 15 per cent reduction: Met High Crime Areas: Met
PSA 2	Reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour and building confidence in the Criminal Justice System without compromising fairness (Confidence element shared with the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)).	Overall: Met Fear of crime: Met Concern about anti-social behaviour being a problem: Met Confidence in local police: Met Victim and witness satisfaction: Not Met Public confidence in Criminal Justice System: Met Black and minority ethnic perceptions of fair treatment: Met
PSA 3	Improve the delivery of justice by increasing the number of crimes for which an offender is brought to justice to 1.25 million by 2007–08.	Overall: Met Offences brought to justice: Met
PSA 4	Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs, including substantially increasing the number of drug-misusing offenders entering treatment through the Criminal Justice System.	Overall: On course Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs: On course Number of drug-misusing offenders entering treatment: Met
PSA 5	Reduce unfounded asylum claims as part of a wider strategy to tackle abuse of the immigration laws and promote controlled legal migration.	Overall: Ahead Reducing unfounded asylum claims: Ahead
Police Standard	Maintain improvements in police performance, as monitored by the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF), in order to deliver the outcomes expressed in the Home Office PSA.	Overall: Met

Summary of Spending Review 2002 (SR02) PSA Performance

PSA		PROGRESS
PSA 6	<p>Reduce the harm caused by drugs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> reducing the use of Class A drugs and the frequent use of any illicit drug among all young people under the age of 25, especially by the most vulnerable young people; and reducing drug-related crime, including as measured by the proportion of offenders testing positive at arrest. 	<p>Overall: Partly met</p> <p>Class A drug use amongst young people: Met</p> <p>Frequent drug use by young people: Met</p> <p>Frequent drug use by vulnerable young people: Met</p> <p>Class A drug use by vulnerable young people: Not met</p> <p>Drug misusing offenders/drug-related crime: Superseded (this target was superseded by PSA4 under the SR2004 arrangements and is measured by the Drug Harm Index)</p>

Spending Review 2007 PSA Performance

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 3: Ensure controlled, fair migration that protects the public and contributes to economic growth.</p>	<p>Overall: Not yet assessed</p> <p>Improvement against 2 out of the 5 indicators. 3 indicators are yet to be assessed.¹</p> <p>Indicator 1 Deliver robust identity management systems at the UK border: Not yet assessed</p> <p>Indicator 1.a All non-EEA nationals have unique secure IDs on entry to the UK: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unique and secure biometric identification information is currently collected on approximately 40 per cent of the non-EEA national cohort. This has been achieved through the global roll out of biometric visas, which was delivered ahead of schedule and under budget. The remainder of the cohort will be delivered via the Secure ID project. <p>Indicator 1.b Track 95 per cent of all passenger journeys by end 2010: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As part of the Government's 10-point plan to reform the border protection and immigration system, the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country by Christmas 2008. This will build on the successes of our early testing of the e-Borders programme (Project Semaphore). <p>Indicator 2 Reduce the time to conclusion for asylum applications: Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Target: 90 per cent concluded within 6 months by December 2011. The key milestones towards this target are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 35 per cent of cases concluded within 6 months by April 2007; • 40 per cent by the end of December 2007; • 60 per cent by the end of December 2008; and • 75 per cent by the end of December 2009. • Latest Outturn: We have achieved both the 35 per cent and 40 per cent milestones. The actual performance achieved by December 2007 was 46 per cent of cases concluded within six months.

¹ PSA Delivery Agreement 3: Ensure controlled fair migration that protects the public and contributes to economic growth, provides more information on the measurement of this PSA. The Delivery Agreement can be found at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_PSA3.pdf

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 3: (continued)</p>	<p>Indicator 3 Increase the number of removals year-on-year: Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: in 2007–08 comprises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 33,200² enforced removals and voluntary departures; and • 31,955² removed at ports and juxtaposed controls. <p>This gives the total number of removals for 2007–08 as 65,150².</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest outturn: performance for the first half of 2008–09 shows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17,585² enforced removals and voluntary departures, up from 16,270 for the first half of 2007–08; and • 15,405² removed at ports and juxtaposed controls, up from 15,265 for the first half of 2007–08. <p>Indicator 4 Increase the number of ‘harm’ cases removed as a proportion of total cases removed: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: to be published in 2009. <p>Indicator 5 By the effective management of migration reduce the vacancy rate in shortage occupations: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Measurement of this indicator was subject to advice from the Migration Advisory Committee on skills shortage occupations. Their shortage occupation list was published in September 2008 and the Government’s response in November 2008. • Baseline: to be published in 2009.

² Data are provisional and subject to change. Figures may not add to the total figure due to rounding.

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 23: Make communities safer.</p>	<p>Overall: Not yet assessed</p> <p>Improvement has been made against 2 out of 6 indicators. The remaining 4 indicators have not yet been assessed.³</p> <p>Indicator 1 The level of most serious violent crimes: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: 16,900 as measured using police recorded crime in 2007-08. <p>This baseline excludes GBH <u>without</u> intent as the separate collection of data for this commenced in April 2008. The effect of clarifying the counting rules for GBH <u>with</u> intent in April 2008 and the inclusion of GBH without intent as explained in “Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly update to June 2008” will be included in future assessments of PSA performance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Latest outturn: this will be published in the annual crime statistics in July 2009. <p>Indicator 2 The level of serious acquisitive crimes: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The success measure⁴ for this indicator is based on Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships/Community Safety Partnerships level performance and will be available with the publication of the annual crime statistics in July 2009. <p>Indicator 3 Public confidence in local agencies involved in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour (ASB): Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: 45 per cent established from 6 months British Crime Survey interviews (October 2007-March 2008) published July 2008. • The requirement for a statistically significant improvement is to increase confidence to 46.5 per cent. • Latest Outturn: Not yet assessed.⁵ Progress against the baseline will be assessed in July 2009 when the first set of comparable data will be available.

³ PSA Delivery Agreement 23: Make communities safer, provides more information on the measurement of this PSA. The Delivery Agreement can be found at: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_PSA23.pdf

⁴ The success measure for serious acquisitive crime is defined in the delivery agreement as being limited to ensuring that no local area has a level of the most harmful acquisitive crime that is disproportionate when judged against what has been achieved elsewhere. The success measure is in two parts: i) those areas that are worse than the benchmark at the baseline, and ii) those areas that are equal to or better than the benchmark at the baseline. This part of the PSA is based on local targets, so the assessment will be based on whether those targets have been met or not. With this in mind the success criteria for each of these CDRPs/CSPs is to either: i) have reduced the level of crime to equal or be less than the 2007–08 baseline benchmark level, as defined through APACS, by the end of the PSA period; or ii) where the achievement of the benchmark is not likely to be possible within the PSA period, have met or exceeded an agreed target that is on a trajectory towards the benchmark, at the end of the PSA period. Accordingly, in line with the principles of the Local Area Agreement negotiations (including any adjustments as a result of the initial refresh process) is that other local priorities for a CDRP outweigh tackling high levels of acquisitive crime, then the agreement would need to reflect this. In this case the performance of the CDRP would not “count” towards the success criteria for the national PSA target. The clear expectation is that this is likely to be the case only in exceptional circumstances. For any CDRP/CSP in which the level of these crimes rises above the benchmark during the CSR07 period, it will be expected to bring crime back down to at least the level of the benchmark.

⁵ It is not possible to compare the latest outturn against the baseline as they are based on overlapping data. Progress against the baseline will be assessed in July 2009 when the first set of comparable data will be available. A more stretching target and trajectory is being established as part of the work to set confidence targets for all forces – as the only single top-down numerical target for forces post-Policing Green Paper. The new single target for police forces on confidence increases the likelihood of achieving the overall national measure.

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 23: (continued)</p>	<p>Indicator 4 The percentage of people perceiving ASB as a problem: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: 16 per cent as measured by the British Crime Survey interviews (2007–08) published July 2008. • The requirement for a statistically significant improvement is to reduce the percentage of people perceiving anti-social behaviour to be a problem to 15.4 per cent. • Latest Outturn: not yet assessed.⁶ Progress against the baseline will be assessed in July 2009 when the first set of comparable data will be available. <p>Indicator 5 The level of proven re-offending by young and adult offenders: Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (Adults): 167.9 re-offences per 100 offenders (2005). • Latest Outturn (Adults): The number of re-offences committed by adults has fallen 13 per cent between 2005 and 2006. • Baseline (Youths): 125.0 re-offences per 100 offenders (2005). • Latest Outturn (Youths): The numbers of re-offences fell by 1.5 per cent (from 125.0 to 123.1 re-offences per 100 offenders) between 2005 and 2006. <p>Indicator 6 The level of serious re-offending: Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (Adults): 0.88 serious offences per 100 offenders (2005). • Latest Outturn (Adults): The number of serious re-offences fell by 21.0 per cent (from 0.88 serious offences per 100 offenders in 2005 to 0.69 in 2006).⁷ • Baseline (Youths): 0.91 serious offences per 100 offenders (2005). • Latest Outturn (Youths): The number of serious re-offences fell by 8.7 per cent (a fall from 0.91 offences per 100 offenders in 2005 to 0.83 offences per 100 offenders in 2006).⁸

⁶ It is not possible to compare the latest outturn against the baseline as they are based on overlapping data.

⁷ These figures must be treated with a degree of caution, due to the small number of serious re-offences in the data. There is less than one serious offence per 100 offenders in the cohort.

⁸ These figures must be treated with a degree of caution, due to the small number of serious re-offences in the data. There is less than one serious offence per 100 offenders in the cohort.

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 25: Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs.</p>	<p>Overall: Not yet assessed</p> <p>Improvement against 1 out of 5 indicators; the remaining four indicators are not yet assessed.⁹</p> <p>Indicator 1 Percentage change in the number of drug users recorded as being in effective treatment: Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: 156,387 persons recorded as in effective treatment (2007–08). • Latest Outturn: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Month 1 April 2008: 157,524 Month 2 May 2008: 157,819 Month 3 June 2008 158,585 (1.4 per cent increase) <p>Indicator 2 Rate of hospital admissions per 100,000 for alcohol related harm:¹⁰ Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: The rate for 2006-07 is 1,400 admissions per 100,000 with a baseline rate of increase, based on data for 2002-03 to 2006-07, of 130 admissions per 100,000 per annum. • Latest Outturn: Not yet assessed. Data expected to be available January 2009. <p>Indicator 3 Rate of drug related offending: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The baseline for this indicator will be available in September 2009. This is the earliest point at which complete convictions data will be available for the baseline cohort. <p>Indicator 4 Percentage of the public who perceive drug use or dealing to be a problem in their area: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: 26 per cent as measured by the British Crime Survey interviews (2007–08) published in July 2008. • The requirement for a statistically significant improvement is to reduce the percentage of people perceiving drug use or dealing to be a problem in their area to 24.9 per cent. • Latest Outturn: Not yet assessed.¹¹ Progress against the baseline will be assessed in July 2009 when the first set of comparative data will be available. <p>Indicator 5 Percentage of the public who perceive drunk and rowdy behaviour to be a problem in their area: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: 25 per cent as measured by the British Crime Survey interviews (2007–08) published July 2008. • The requirement for a statistically significant improvement is to reduce the percentage of people perceiving drunk and rowdy behaviour to be a problem in their area to 24.1 per cent. • Latest Outturn: Not yet assessed.¹² Progress against the baseline will be assessed in July 2009 when the first set of comparative data will be available.

⁹ PSA Delivery Agreement 25: Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs, provides more information on the measurement of this PSA. The Delivery Agreement can be found at; http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_PSA25.pdf

¹⁰ The projected change in the rate of admissions during the CSR period (trajectory) has not yet been assessed. The rate of alcohol-related hospital admissions for 2006–07 is 1,400 admissions per 100,000 with a baseline rate of increase of 130 admissions per 100,000 per annum (based on data for 2002–03 to 2006–07). The success criterion for this indicator is to reduce the trend in the rate of increase in alcohol related hospital admissions by a minimum movement of 1 percentage point reduction in trend.

¹¹ It is not possible to compare the latest outturn against the baseline as they are based on overlapping data.

¹² It is not possible to compare the latest outturn against the baseline as they are based on overlapping data.

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 26: Reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism.</p>	<p>One of the new 2008–11 Public Service Agreements (PSAs) covers counter-terrorism. PSA 26 has the same core aim as the UK’s strategy for countering international terrorism (CONTEST) – to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism. It provides a strategic level assessment of the key deliverables across the UK counter-terrorism effort. Given the complexity of counter-terrorism, not every objective within each CONTEST workstream is represented in the PSA. Instead it covers the priority areas of CONTEST and focuses on the main outcomes.</p> <p>The PSA is structured around the four main CONTEST outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pursue: stopping terrorist attacks. The PSA outcomes focus on our ability to detect and disrupt terrorist networks. • Protect: strengthening our overall protection against terrorist attacks. The PSA outcomes focus on reducing the vulnerability of UK citizens, through increased protective security in crowded places and by mitigating risks to the transport systems; reducing the vulnerability of the Critical National Infrastructure; and reducing the vulnerability of the UK through strengthened border security. • Prepare: where we cannot stop an attack, mitigating its impact. The PSA outcomes focus on our capability to deal with the consequences of a terrorist attack. • Prevent: stopping people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism. The PSA outcomes focus on improving resilience to violent extremism. <p>Delivery of PSA 26 is coordinated by the Office for Security and Counter-Terrorism. By its nature, the PSA Delivery Agreement contains information about the UK counter-terrorism effort that could potentially be useful to those who threaten the UK and its interests. Performance against the PSA is, therefore, classified.</p>

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 24: Deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive Criminal Justice System (CJS) for victims and the public.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Justice leads on this PSA that is shared with the Home Office and the Attorney General's Office.¹³</p> <p>Overall: Not yet assessed</p> <p>We are currently able to assess performance against 2 of the 5 indicators.</p> <p>Indicator 1 Effectiveness and efficiency of the criminal justice system in bringing offences to justice: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on previous performance trends, it is likely that improvements will be secured in the proportion of serious violent, sexual and acquisitive offences brought to justice. We are working to improve the quality of performance data on this indicator and expect to be in a position to report on offences brought to justice performance as a rate of crime in early 2009. The budgeted CJS spend in bringing offences to justice is projected to fall by approximately 4.5 per cent over the period 2008-11 in real terms. The budgeted spend in 2008-09 is £7.87bn compared to £7.95bn in 2007-08. <p>Indicator 2 Public Confidence in the Fairness and the Effectiveness of the Criminal Justice System: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on historic performance trends, it is likely that both elements of this indicator – CJS as a whole is fair and CJS as a whole is effective – will be met, if not exceeded. This will mean an overall increase of public confidence in the fairness and effectiveness of the CJS. The first set of comparative data will be available in January 2009. The baselines stand at 56 per cent for confidence in the fairness of the CJS and 37 per cent for confidence in the effectiveness of the CJS. <p>Indicator 3 Experience of the CJS for victims and witnesses: Not yet assessed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on historic performance and a trend showing continued improvement since March 2005 it is likely that both elements of the indicator will be met. This signifies greater victim and witness satisfaction in relation to overall contact with both the Police and the CJS as a whole. The first set of comparative data will be available in April 2009. <p>Indicator 4 Understanding and addressing race disproportionality at key stages in the Criminal Justice System (CJS): Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the nature of this indicator, there is no specific directional target to reduce disproportionality. Progress, however, towards the 2011 PSA milestone is on schedule with Local Criminal Justice Boards already collecting and analysing data on racial disproportionality and taking steps to address it where it is unjustified. Should this milestone be met, the CJS will be better informed to identify and explain race disproportionality at key points within the system. <p>Indicator 5 Recovery of criminal assets: Improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Baseline: £125m recovered in 2006-07. £33.2m recovered between April – June 2008. Although current performance shows improvement, it is still below trajectory to recover £250m in 2009-10. Actions, however, are underway to address the performance gap.

¹³ PSA Delivery Agreement 24: Deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive Criminal Justice System for victims and the public, provides more information on the measurement of this PSA. The Delivery Agreement can be found at; http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_PSA24.pdf

Main Contributor

The Home Office is a main contributor to the following government PSAs.

PSA	Lead Government Department
1 – Raise the Productivity of the UK Economy.	Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.
13 – Improve children and young people's safety.	Department for Children, Schools and Families.
14 – Increase the number of children and young people on the path to success.	Department for Children, Schools and Families.
20 – Increase long-term housing supply and affordability.	Communities and Local Government.
21 – Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities.	Communities and Local Government.
24 – Deliver a more effective, transparent and responsive Criminal Justice System for victims and the public.	Ministry Of Justice.

Main Contributors to the Home Office PSA's

The following government departments are a main contributor to Home Office led PSAs.

PSA	Other Government Departments
3 – Ensure controlled, fair migration that protects the public and contributes to economic growth.	Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, Communities and Local Government, Department for International Development, Department for Transport, Department of Work and Pensions, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs, Ministry of Justice.
23 – Make Communities Safer.	Department for Children, Schools and Families, Department of Health, Department of Works and Pensions, Ministry of Justice.
25 – Reduce the harm caused by alcohol and drugs.	Communities and Local Government, Department for Children, Schools and Families, Department of Health, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, Department for Work and Pensions, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HM Revenue and Customs, Ministry of Justice.
26 – Reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism.	Cabinet Office, Communities and Local Government, Department for International Development, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, Department for Transport, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Justice.

Departmental Strategic Objectives

The Home Office has 7 Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSO). 6 DSOs are aligned to delivery of government PSAs and use the same performance indicators to track progress. Only an overall assessment against delivery is therefore provided in this report and can be found on page 6. For a full assessment of performance please refer to the relevant Spending Review 2007 PSA reported from page 9.

Home Office DSO 6 does not correspond to a PSA and is therefore reported on separately below.

DSO	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>DSO 6: Safeguard people's identity and the privileges of citizenship.</p>	<p>Overall: Strong progress</p> <p>Progress against this DSO is currently demonstrated by achievement of milestones – data streams do not yet exist to support baseline setting and measurement of indicators for this DSO. We are considering how we can measure this DSO as the programmes rolls out over the period to 2012.</p> <p>All programmes are on track to deliver the milestones.</p> <p>Indicator 1 By the end of 2008, launch identity cards for foreign nationals, in the form of biometric immigration documents to students extending or varying their leave: Improvement</p> <p>The Identity Card design was officially launched by the Home Secretary on 25 September 2008 and the implementation of Identity Cards for Foreign Nationals to student and marriage applicants commenced successfully on 25 November 2008.</p> <p>Indicator 2 By the end of 2008 continue to issue biometric visas to foreign nationals outside the EEA travelling to the UK: Improvement</p> <p>Visa applications for non EEA nationals continue to be accompanied by mandatory biometric acquisition. Global biometric rollout is now complete and biometrics have become a standard component of the visa process. This major programme was delivered ahead of schedule, within budget and has already identified numerous applicants with adverse histories who might otherwise have remained undetected. The expansion of biometric data matching against criminal databases was completed on 3 October 2008.</p> <p>Indicator 3 By the end of 2009, issue first identity cards, including recording of fingerprints, to British Citizens and foreign (including EEA) nationals who are employed in sensitive roles or locations such as airport workers: Improvement</p> <p>Draft secondary legislation to achieve this objective was published for consultation on 21 November 2008, it should be laid before Parliament in March 2009. 2 airports have agreed to work in partnership with the Home Office on Wave One of implementation on target in the second half of 2009. Work is on track to procure the provision of the necessary infrastructure.</p>

DSO	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>DSO 6: (continued)</p>	<p>Indicator 4 By the end of 2009, launch Employment Checking Service, integrating existing checks to improve efficiency for employers: Improvement</p> <p>This work is on track, it is a contributory programme supporting the issue of identity cards to workers in sensitive roles and locations.</p> <p>Indicator 5 By the end of 2010, issue first identity cards to British young people who want them: Improvement</p> <p>Delivery of this work-stream is on track, We are working with Strategic Marketing Agencies to develop uses of the card and identify potential partners relevant to young people which will help drive up voluntary enrolment. This work includes other government departments and the private sector and is part of the wider development of the Identity Card Scheme.</p> <p>Indicator 6 By the end of 2010, develop proposals for streamlining existing customer identity management processes in the private sector, to make it easier for young people to prove their identity: Improvement</p> <p>Discussions are being held with private sector stakeholders to understand their identity management business requirements and to feed that into improving take-up of identity cards by young people.</p>

Value for Money

	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>Home Office SR04 Target: to achieve efficiency savings of £1970m, of which £1060 is cashable.</p> <p>Home Office (CSR07) Value for Money target: to achieve cash-releasing, sustainable gains worth £1,400m 2010-11 net of costs.</p>	<p>SR04 – By the end of 2007-08 The Home Office achieved gains worth £2,855m per annum of which £1,552m per annum is cashable. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gains worth £1,548m of which £812m is cashable in the police service; • improvements of £650m in the UK Border Agency; • headcount – reducing the size of the Home Office Headquarters by 2,429 against the March 2004 baseline; and • relocation – surpassing our target of 2,200, relocating 2,951 departmental posts to the regions. <p>CSR07 Building on this excellent record of over delivery the Department is on track to meet its CSR07 VFM target; with early gains estimated to be worth £284m per annum by September 2009 (all gains remain estimated until the full year impact can be measured). Amongst other activities this included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £102m per annum worth of savings achieved in the UK Border Agency, largely through savings in asylum support costs; • the work of the Commercial Directorate has saved the Department £41m, through introduction of category management and better collaborative contracts; • savings in the National Policing Improvement Agency worth £34m per annum through allocative efficiencies and reprioritisation of activity; and • the Serious Organised Crime Agency has saved close to £1m through estate rationalisation. <p>All gains described are cash-releasing, sustained and are reported net of costs.</p> <p>Over the next 6 months we will deliver further elements of the VfM strategy. This will include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. review of caseworking in the Border Agency that will identify the scope to improve productivity and unit cost in caseworking functions; and 2. delivery of significant locally driven police gains including through process improvement. Operation QUEST supports police forces in achieving significant improvements in performance and productivity. For example forces have improved the timeliness and quality of service directly to members of the public, including victims of crime. In its Northern Division, Lancashire Constabulary achieved more than 96 per cent customer satisfaction with the way the police responded. Internal audit functions and the NAO will ensure reported VfM improvements are robust.

Spending Review 2004 target

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 1: Reduce crime by 15 per cent, and further in high-crime areas, by 2007–08.</p>	<p>Overall crime: Met</p> <p>This is measured by the British Crime Survey (BCS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (BCS 2002–03): 12,341,000. • Target (BCS 2007–08): a 15 per cent reduction. • Final outturn (year to March 2008): 10,143,000 BCS crimes an 18 per cent reduction. <p>Greater reduction in high-crime areas: Met</p> <p>This is assessed by comparing the average crime reduction in the 40 high-crime areas (HCAs) with the average reduction in the remaining Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) areas. This is measured using police-recorded crime, as the BCS is not available at CDRP level.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: 2003–04. • Target (2007–08): a greater reduction in HCAs than other CDRPs. • Annual outturn (2007–08): HCA reduction = 24 per cent, reduction in remaining CDRPs = 18 per cent.

BCS overall crime: Performance against SR2004 PSA1 target

(to reduce BCS overall crime by 15% between 2002/03 and 2007/08)

Latest data for year ending March 2008

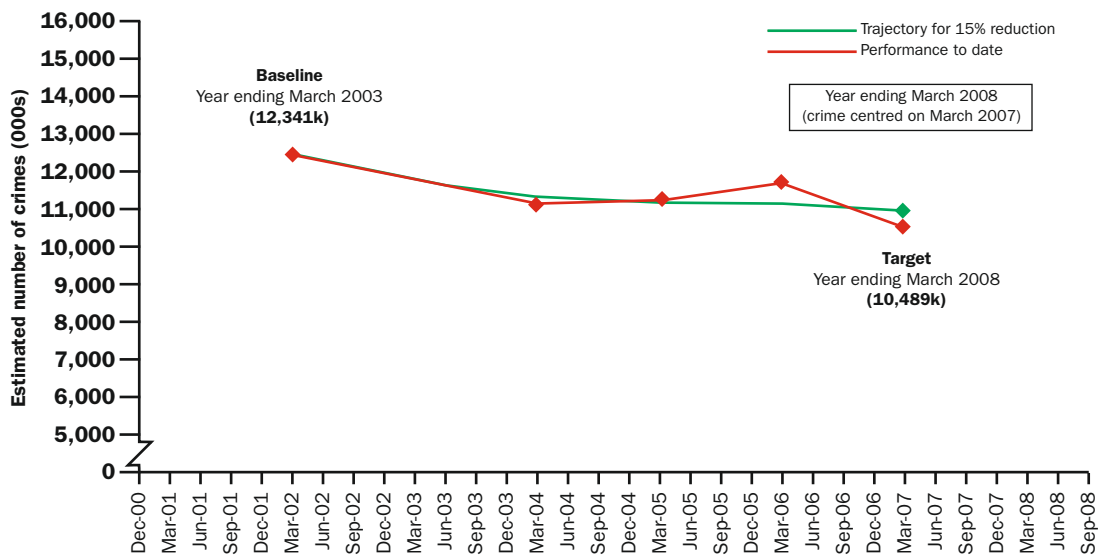


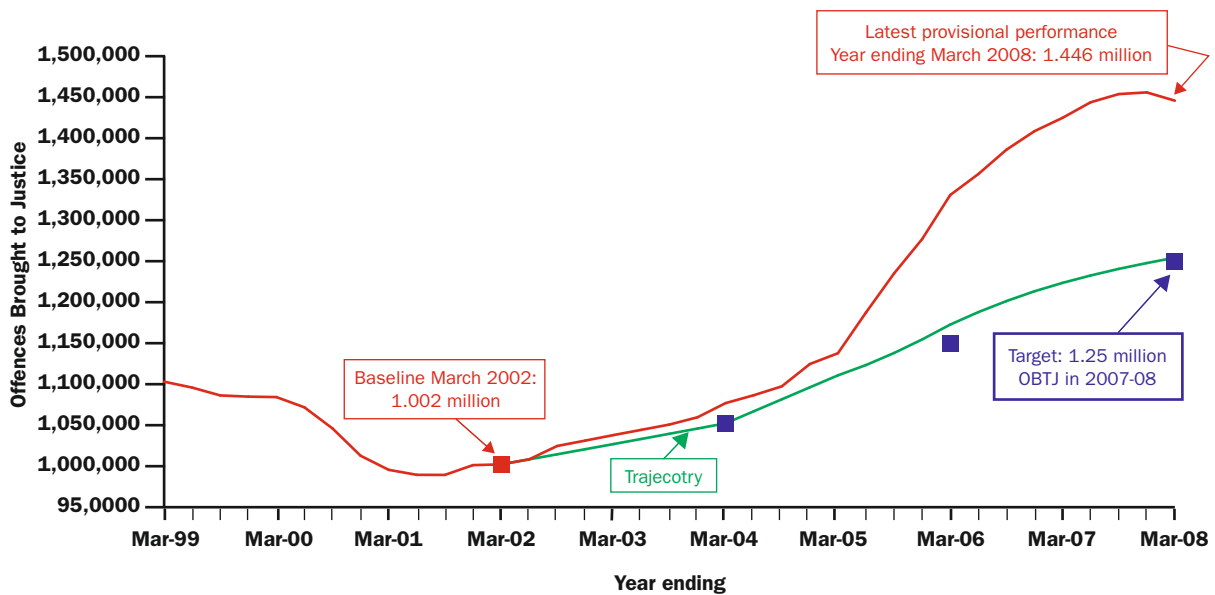
Chart prepared by RDS(CRCSG), Home Office

SR2004

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 2: Reassure the public, reducing the fear of crime and anti-social behaviour, and building confidence in the Criminal Justice System (CJS) without compromising fairness (confidence element shared with Ministry of Justice (MoJ) and Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)).</p>	<p>Fear of crime: Met</p> <p>This is measured by the British Crime Survey (BCS), which asks about people's level of worry about burglary, car crime and violent crime.</p> <p>Worry about violent crime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (BCS 2002–03): 21 per cent. • Target (BCS 2007–08): a statistically significant reduction. • Final outturn (BCS 2007-08): 15 per cent. <p>Worry about car crime:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (BCS 2002–03): 17 per cent. • Target (BCS 2007–08): a statistically significant reduction. • Final outturn (BCS 2007-08): 12 per cent. <p>Worry about burglary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (BCS 2002–03): 15 per cent. • Target (BCS 2007–08): a statistically significant reduction. • Final outturn (BCS 2007-08): 12 per cent. <p>Concern that anti-social behaviour is a problem: Met</p> <p>This is measured by the BCS that asks seven questions about people's perception of a variety of forms of anti-social behaviour. The responses produce an aggregate figure. Figures below are based on those with a high level of perceived anti-social behaviour.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (BCS 2002–03): 21 per cent. • Target (BCS 2007–08): a statistically significant reduction. • Final outturn (BCS 2007-08): 16 per cent. <p>Confidence in local police: Met</p> <p>This is measured by the BCS, that asks whether people think the police in their area are doing a good job.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (BCS 2003–04): 47 per cent. • Target (BCS 2007–08): a statistically significant increase. • Final outturn (BCS 2007-08): 53 per cent. <p>Victim and witness satisfaction: Not met</p> <p>This is measured by the BCS, which asks questions on victims' and witnesses' satisfaction with the Criminal Justice System (CJS).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (BCS six months to March 2004): 58 per cent. • Target (BCS 2007–08): a statistically significant increase. • Final outturn (BCS 2007-08): 59.8 per cent (below the required statistically significant increase to 60.1 per cent). <p>Public confidence in the Criminal Justice System: Met</p> <p>This is measured by the BCS, which asks whether the public believes the CJS is effective in bringing people who commit crimes to justice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (BCS 2002–03): 39 per cent. • Target (BCS 2007–08): a statistically significant increase. • Final outturn (BCS 2007-08): 44 per cent. <p>Black and minority ethnic perceptions of fair treatment: Met</p> <p>This is measured by questions in the Citizenship Survey (formerly the Home Office Citizenship Survey (HOCS)), which ask whether people from a black or minority ethnic background believe the CJS would treat them worse than people of other races.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (HOCS 2001): 33 per cent. • Target (Citizenship Survey 2007): a decrease. • Final outturn (Citizenship Survey 2007): 28 per cent.

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN												
<p>PSA 3: Improve the delivery of justice by increasing the number of crimes for which an offender is brought to justice to 1.25 million by 2007–08.</p>	<p>Offences brought to justice: Met</p> <p>An offence is considered to have been brought to justice when a recorded crime results in an offender being convicted, cautioned, issued with a penalty notice for disorder, given a formal warning for the possession of cannabis or having an offence taken into consideration.</p> <p>As the target is an absolute figure no baseline applies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SR 2004 target (2007–08): 1.25 million. Provisional estimated¹⁴ final outturn (year to March 2008): 1.446 million. <p>The total number of offences brought to justice in the year to March 2008 is comprised of the following:</p> <table style="width: 100%; margin-top: 10px;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: right;">Year ending March 2008 (thousands of offences)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Convictions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">724</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cautions</td> <td style="text-align: right;">375</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Penalty Notices for Disorder</td> <td style="text-align: right;">137</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cannabis Warnings</td> <td style="text-align: right;">103</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Offences Taken into Consideration</td> <td style="text-align: right;">107</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Year ending March 2008 (thousands of offences)	Convictions	724	Cautions	375	Penalty Notices for Disorder	137	Cannabis Warnings	103	Offences Taken into Consideration	107
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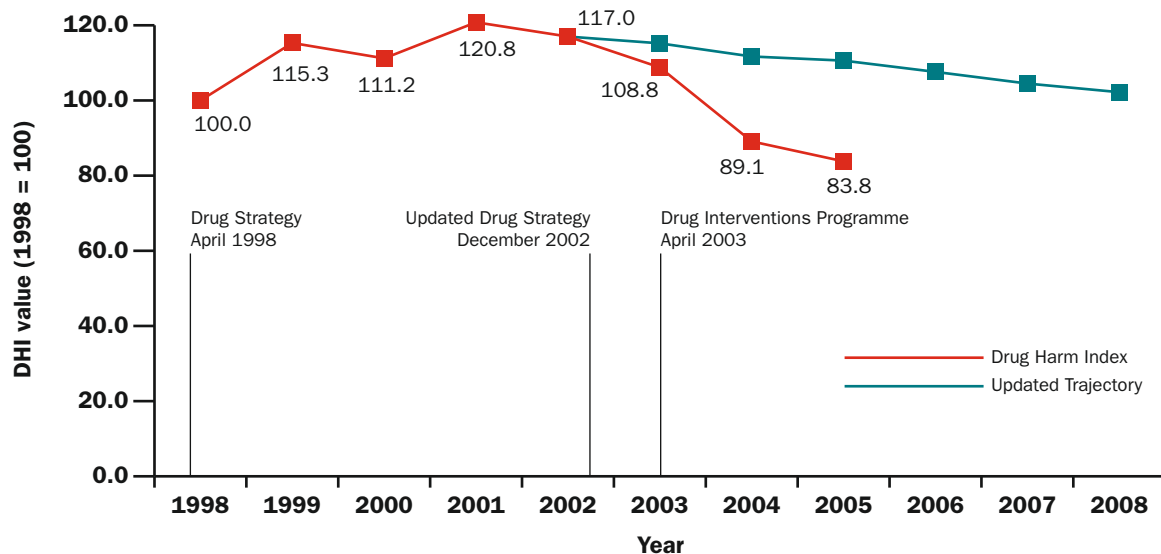
Offences brought to justice



¹⁴ The numbers of Offences Brought to Justice (OBTJ) for 2008 are provisional data from courts and police, and are therefore provided as management information as they are likely to change. The final OBTJ data for 2007 was published as a National Statistic by the Ministry of Justice in "Criminal Statistics in England & Wales 2007" on 27 November 2008.

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 4: Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs, including substantially increasing the number of drug-misusing offenders entering treatment through the Criminal Justice System.</p>	<p>Reduce the harm caused by illegal drugs: On course</p> <p>The Drug Harm Index (DHI) measures harm reduction against the overarching PSA4 target over the SR2004 period. The DHI amalgamates a substantial basket of individual harm indicators to measure the level of harm caused by illegal drugs. The harms are weighted according to their economic impact to allow year-on-year comparisons of the harm caused by drugs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (2002): 117.0.¹⁵ • Target: a reduction by 2007– 08. • Latest outturn (2005): 83.8. <p>Number of drug-misusing offenders entering treatment through the Criminal Justice System: Met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline: 438 a month in March 2004. • Target: 1,000 a week by March 2008. • Final outturn: Consistently more than 4,000 a month since January 2008.

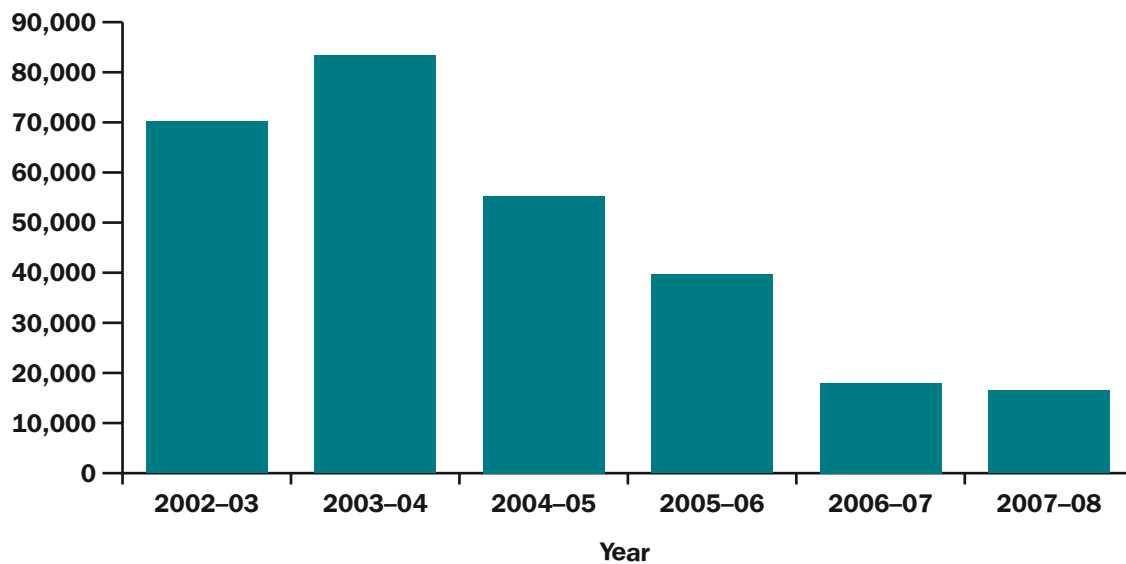
Drug Harm Index and trajectory



¹⁵ According to the latest figures the DHI stood at 117.0 in 2002. The previous version of the DHI showed this figure as 115.8. The change has occurred because data providers have retrospectively updated some of the data used to construct the DHI. As a result, the latest DHI figures are slightly different to those published previously. The data revisions have slightly increased the value of the DHI between 1999 and 2004, but the overall trend over time has remained broadly unchanged. This is discussed in more detail in Section 3 of the updated report, available at: www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/rdsolr2207.pdf.

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 5: Reduce unfounded asylum claims as part of a wider strategy to tackle abuse of the immigration laws and promote controlled legal migration.</p>	<p>Reduce unfounded asylum claims: Ahead</p> <p>The target is measured as the absolute number of unfounded claims in a year. The absolute number of claims includes both the number of principal applicants and dependants. An unfounded asylum claim is one where the applicant and dependants of the applicant have not been granted full refugee status (indefinite leave to remain)¹⁶ under the 1951 UN Convention, i.e. failed asylum seekers (applicants refused refugee status at the initial decision stage for which no appeal is received and applicants whose appeal rights are exhausted).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (2002–03): 70,200. • Target: a reduction. • Outturn (2005–06): 39,600 (revised).¹⁷ • Outturn (2006–07): 18,000 (revised).¹⁸ • Outturn (2007-08): 16,500 (provisional).

Number becoming failed asylum seekers (including dependants)



¹⁶ Until 30 August 2005, persons granted asylum were given indefinite leave to remain (ILR). Since 30 August 2005, all refugees, other than those arriving in the UK under managed migration resettlement schemes such as Gateway, have been granted five years' limited leave rather than indefinite ILR. This change has not affected the focus of the target or the methodology that is used to determine whether or not it has been met.

¹⁷ The number of individuals recorded as becoming failed asylum seekers in 2005-06 was revised to take account of late entered data.

¹⁸ The number of individuals recorded as becoming failed asylum seekers in 2006-07 was also revised to take account of late entered data.

STANDARD	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>Police standard: Maintain improvements in police performance, as monitored by the Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF), in order to deliver the outcomes expressed in the Home Office PSA.</p>	<p>The performance of all police forces: Met</p> <p>Over the PPAF period (2004–05 to 2007–08), forces in England and Wales have demonstrated improvements in all areas of policing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public confidence in the police has risen over the period – with 53 per cent of people nationally believing that the police in their area do a good job, compared to 49 per cent in 2004–05. • User satisfaction rose by 2.7 percentage points – with nearly half of forces improving and only three deteriorating. • The risk of being a victim of either personal or household crime – as measured by the British Crime Survey – improved nationally. • Nearly all forces (41 of 43) lowered their rates of acquisitive crime and 38 forces reduced rates of life threatening and gun crime. Violent crime rose in only 9 areas. • The rate of offences brought to justice increased, with 42 out of 43 forces showing an increase over the PPAF period. This reflects a 27 per cent increase since 2004–05 in the number of offences brought to justice. • Forces also showed good improvement in resource use and front-line policing improved over the period.

Spending Review 2002 targets

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 6: Reduce the harm caused by drugs by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing the use of Class A drugs and the frequent use of any illicit drug among all young people under the age of 25, especially by the most vulnerable young people; and • Reducing drug-related crime, including as measured by the proportion of offenders testing positive at arrest. 	<p>Class A drug use among young people: Met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (2003–04 BCS): 8.5 per cent. • Target: a reduction by 2007–08. • Latest outturn (BCS 2007–08): 6.8 per cent. <p>Frequent drug use by young people: Met</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (2003–04 BCS): 12.4 per cent. • Target: a reduction by 2007–08. • Latest outturn (BCS 2007–08): 7.3 per cent. <p>Frequent drug use by vulnerable young people: Met</p> <p>Vulnerable young people are at greater risk of becoming problem drug users in later life. They include truants and excludees, young offenders and young people in care. We use the Schools Survey to measure this target because we can identify truants and excludees from this survey.</p> <p>The Offending, Crime and Justice Survey (OCJS) is no longer being used to measure this target because the survey design includes a declining cross-sectional sample size that makes it an inappropriate measure of changes over time.¹⁹</p> <p><i>Schools Survey (frequency is once a month or more):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (2003): 21.2 per cent. • Target: a reduction by 2007–08. • Latest outturn (2007): 13.8 per cent.²⁰

¹⁹ The sample for the OCJS consists of:

- i) a sample panel of respondents interviewed in previous years of the survey and followed up in subsequent years; and
- ii) a fresh sample of respondents recruited each year to make up the overall target sample size of 10,000 respondents.

Most respondents in the survey are part of the panel sample. Measuring changes in drug use over time among this group would reflect the respondents' ageing and personal development over time rather than any influence of policy interventions. Panel respondents' gradual familiarisation with the research instrument and the survey can be expected to influence their reporting. Measuring drug use among the remaining fresh sample would produce estimates with margins of error too wide to effectively measure any changes and would be subject to a large amount of variation each year.

²⁰ In the SR2002 PSA Technical Note the indicators used for both vulnerable young people measures were in development and no baseline measures had been set. The measures and baselines for these two indicators were specified in the SR2004 PSA Technical Note, and these are reported against here.

PSA	LATEST OUTTURN
<p>PSA 6: (continued)</p>	<p>Class A drug use by vulnerable young people: Not met</p> <p>The Schools Survey is also used to measure Class A drug use (in the past year) by vulnerable young people.</p> <p><i>Schools Survey:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baseline (2003): 14.1 per cent. • Target: a reduction by 2007–08. • Latest outturn (2007): 12.6 per cent²¹ (reduction from the baseline not statistically significant). <p>Drug-misusing offenders/drug-related crime: Superseded</p> <p>(This target was superseded by PSA4 under the SR2004 arrangements and is measured by the Drug Harm Index).</p> <p>Significant amounts of acquisitive crime are driven by the need to support Class A drug habits. Although drug-related crime can be defined more widely, acquisitive crime remains at its heart.</p> <p>Identifying exactly which acquisitive crimes were committed to support a drug habit is difficult, as routine crime statistics do not include information about the offender’s drug use or motivation for offending.</p> <p>It did not prove possible to use the proportion of those arrested who tested positive as an effective measure of drug-related crime. Under the arrangements for the PSA targets in SR2004 a robust and much wider mechanism – the Drug Harm Index (DHI) – was introduced to measure a range of harms from drug misuse. Drug-related crime is the largest single element within the DHI, and performance on reducing drug-related crime is clearly reflected within it. The baseline for the DHI was set at 117.0 for 2002 – the year the updated Drug Strategy was launched – and the latest figures show that the DHI had fallen to 83.8 points by 2005, a drop of 33.2 points or 28.4 per cent.</p> <p>As a separate but related indicator of drug-related crime, recorded acquisitive crime, to which drug-related crime makes a significant contribution, has fallen by 28 per cent since the introduction of the Drug Interventions Programme comparing 2002–03 with 2007–08.</p>

²¹ In the SR2002 PSA Technical Note the indicators used for both vulnerable young people measures were in development and no baseline measures had been set. The measures and baselines for these two indicators were specified in the SR2004 PSA Technical Note, and these are reported against here.

Assessing Progress

Summary assessments of progress

SR07

The 'status' of delivery follows set guidance on reporting. The categories are as follows.

TERM	USAGE
Strong progress	Where more than 50 per cent of indicators had improved.
Some progress	Where 50 per cent or less indicators had improved.
No progress	Where no indicators had improved.
Not yet assessed	50 per cent or more of the indicators are yet to have even first time data produced on progress.

SR04 and SR02

Departments are also encouraged to use standard terms if summarising progress against ongoing targets. The following list offers a number of options.

TERM	USAGE
Met early	Only to be used in circumstances where there is no possibility of subsequent slippage during the lifetime of the target.
Ahead	If progress is exceeding plans and expectations.
On course	Progress in line with plans and expectations.
Slippage	Where progress is slower than expected, e.g. by reference to criteria set out in a target's Technical Note.
Not yet assessed	For example a new target for which data is not yet available.

Final assessment against SR04 and SR02

The 'status' of delivery of the targets follows set guidance on reporting. The categories are as follows.

TERM	USAGE
Met	Target achieved by the target date – must not be used before the target end-date unless there is no possibility at all of subsequent slippage.
Met-ongoing	For older open-ended targets where the target level has been met and little would be achieved by continuing to report the same information indefinitely (in using this term it should be made clear that a final assessment is being given).
Partly met	Where a target has two or more distinct elements, and some – but not all – have been achieved by the target date.
Not met	Where a target was not met or met late.
Not known	This should only be used where it was not possible to assess progress against the target during its lifetime or subsequently – explanation should be given and reference made to any subsequent targets covering the same area.

Data limitations

This section provides information on the data systems used by the Home Office to measure performance. The data systems are listed by topic area.

1. Alcohol and Drugs

Alcohol-related admissions

The indicator is based on international best practice and includes data for some 48 conditions that are either wholly attributable or partly attributable to alcohol and weighted accordingly. The use of partly attributable conditions means the indicator is more comprehensive, but introduces the risk that not all of the observed change over time is the result of alcohol.

Whilst the confidence intervals associated with the estimates are very small given the large number of cases involved, measurement error is a greater issue. The information is derived from administrative systems and, whilst subject to detailed data standards and quality assurance, are still dependent to some extent on healthcare providers' practices. In particular, the data about rises and falls in alcohol-related hospital admissions might be affected by the depth of diagnostic coding undertaken by providers and underlying increases in the overall number of hospital admissions. Further analytical work will be carried out in this area.

The data set used, referred to as Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), is a record of all hospital inpatient spells. HES data has around 98 per cent coverage. It is mandatory for the NHS to submit data in a standardised format on a monthly basis. Data is clearly defined by the NHS data dictionary and Commissioning Datasets standards. Any changes are made by well-documented Data Set Change Notices. Trusts are responsible for their own data quality. NHS trusts may have their data assessed by their internal management before it is submitted. After submission, the data are cleaned to remove the duplicates and improve data quality. The HES data quality team confirm trusts are happy with the data they have submitted, in a consultation exercise, on an annual basis. Where issues are identified during processing, these are communicated with the Trust to drive

future improvements. Any data quality issues are highlighted in data quality notes and publications that are made available with HES. A National Statistics Quality Review was undertaken in April 2008.

Drug Harm Index

Drug Harm Index limitations in data availability mean that the Drug Harm Index (DHI) does not capture all the harms that illegal drugs might possibly generate, but rather a subset of harms for which robust data are available. As such, this measure is an index indicating change over time, rather than an estimate of the absolute level of harm at any one time. Additionally, changes in trend may be due to factors external to the Drug Strategy (e.g. increasing unemployment), therefore a reduction in the index is not necessarily direct evidence of the success of drug interventions. Interpreting changes in the DHI requires care, as it is a single measure that summarises much detail. Different categories of harm may evolve differently over time and no single index can fully capture this diversity. Complementary analysis of data feeding into the DHI would be necessary to completely understand these drivers.

National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS)

NDTMS collects client activity data from drug and alcohol treatment services in England. The data collected is used to produce National Statistics and performance monitoring information.

NDTMS is a robust data system and quality assurance processes are in place. This target has been developed in line with data available in NDTMS.

Number of drug-misusing offenders entering Treatment

Drug Interventions Programme data are robust, and quality assurance procedures are in place.

Young people measures – BCS and the School Survey

Approximately 6,000 16 to 24-year-olds living in private households in England and Wales were interviewed in the 2007–08 BCS, a fourfold

increase in sample size since 1998 that has increased the precision of estimates of drug use. As a household survey, the BCS does not cover some small groups of people, such as prisoners, students living in halls of residence and the homeless, who may have high rates of drug use. Questions about illicit drug use on the BCS are asked within a self-completion module to ensure confidentiality. Over 9,000 secondary school children in England aged 11 to 15 complete the School Survey each year. The School Survey will under-represent those who are excluded and those who are truanting from school, both of whom display higher levels of drug use. The smaller number of truants and excludees in the School Survey sample means that the estimates of drug use among these vulnerable groups are less accurate and more subject to variation. For trend measurement these issues of under-representation are not a problem as long as the survey coverage of the population does not change from year to year.

2. Crime

There are two methods available for estimating the level of crime:

British Crime Survey (BCS)²²

A victimisation survey in which adults living in private households are asked about their experiences of crime. It includes property crimes such as vehicle-related thefts and burglary, and personal crimes such as assaults. For the crime types it covers, the BCS provides the best available reflection of the true extent of household and personal crime nationally because it includes crimes that are not reported to the police and crimes which are not recorded by them. As a survey based on personal experience, the BCS does not include crimes committed against businesses, nor does it currently survey people under-16 years of age. It is able to provide an estimate of the level of household and personal acquisitive crime, as distinct from all crime. However, the limits of the survey prevent accurate discrimination of crime levels between lower level

geographies within the national estimate (e.g. at CDRP/CSP level) and also the use of the results in managing day-to-day business (because results are not timely enough). The BCS is a continuous survey asking respondents about crimes they have experienced in the 12 months prior to interview. A new annual dataset is available each quarter covering interviews carried out in the previous 12 month period. These interviews capture crimes experienced over a period of approximately two years up to the end of the 12 month interview period. This rolling annual data is published on a quarterly basis.

Police recorded crime²³

This is the only measure of crime levels in small areas, such as CDRP/CSPs. The number of crimes recorded is not as good an estimate of the actual number of crimes that take place as the BCS because not all crimes are reported to the police. The BCS count also gives a better indication of trends in crime over time because it is unaffected by changes in levels of reporting to the police, and in police recording practices.

The National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) has led to much greater adherence to common standards than was the case in the past. Police recorded crime covers offences against business and those aged under-16. Recorded crime figures are also available rapidly to local managers.

The PSA 23.1 performance indicator for the level of most serious violent crimes includes GBH without intent. Data for this is only available from April 2008 when it was created as a separate offence category and therefore is not included in the 2007-08 baseline figure. Furthermore, in April 2008 the counting rules for GBH with intent were clarified resulting in the movement of some offences from “other violence against the person with and without injury” to the “most serious violence” grouping. The effect of both changes was explained in “Crime in England and Wales: Quarterly Update to June 2008” and will be included in future assessments of PSA 23.1 performance.

²² The BCS is a Government Statistical Service survey within the scope of National Statistics. Fieldwork is subcontracted to external survey companies after competitive tendering. The Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate undertakes quality control of the survey itself, the data processing and the reliability of results. The BCS covers a randomly selected sample of those aged 16 or over living in private households in England and Wales. The BCS is currently published quarterly and can be found at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/index.htm

²³ Recorded crime is all offences that are recorded by the police and which are then notified to the Home Office. It includes all indictable and triable either way offences, together with a few closely related summary offences. The vast majority of summary offences are excluded. The Home Office issues detailed rules to the police on the counting and classification of crime.

Serious Acquisitive Crime

The social and economic harms of a number of acquisitive crimes that are difficult to track through police-recorded crime are also on a par with the offences highlighted within this priority action. For example, at the time of embarking on PSA 23 indicator 2, it was not possible to measure levels of commercial burglary centrally and therefore this crime category was not included within the national PSA indicator. Likewise fraud can have very serious consequences for businesses or individuals. However, the real level and trends in this crime type are generally not well reflected in recorded crime statistics (notwithstanding recent changes aimed at improving this) which makes their inclusion within the PSA indicator unrealistic.

3. Immigration

Asylum

Asylum data are robust and quality assurance procedures are in place. The NAO report in 2004 concluded that ‘asylum data and statistics are in most respects reliable’. The indicators SR04 PSA 5 and SR07 PSA 3 Indicator 2 use data from these series.

Removals

The figures used for PSA 3 indicator 3 are National Statistics and are produced in accordance with the high professional standards set out in the National Statistics Code of Practice, and undergo regular quality assurance reviews to ensure that they meet customer needs.

4. Criminal Justice System

Asset Recovery

The measure for asset recovery is the value of assets recovered from criminals through: cash forfeitures, confiscation orders enforced, civil recovery/taxation and international sharing agreement. It is collected monthly.

The performance figure for PSA 24 (SR07) is an aggregated figure, which is derived from a number of sources. The source of the data for Cash Forfeiture and International receipts is Home Office Finance. The source of the data for Confiscation receipts is the JARD (Joint Assets Recovery Database). It should be noted that this data could be taken from Home Office Finance. The reason that JARD is used as the source is

that the database is able to provide a detailed break down of the data. The source of the data for Civil/Recovery and Tax receipts is the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) Finance.

Citizenship Survey

The Citizenship Survey (formerly the Home Office Citizenship Survey (HOCS)) is a household survey of adults (age 16+) carried out by Communities and Local Government (CLG). It covers a range of topics, including perceptions of racial discrimination by public service organisations, and is used to measure performance against PSA targets for CLG, the Home Office, the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and the Office of the Third Sector. The survey has previously been carried out in 2001, 2003 and 2005, providing performance data every two years. In order to increase the frequency of data, the next survey will start in April 2007 and will run on a continuous basis. Headline findings on the PSA measures will be available quarterly, with the more detailed 2007–08 annual research reports available in autumn 2008.

Offences brought to justice

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces and courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure that data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF)

The Policing Performance Assessment Framework (PPAF) covers all 43 forces in England and Wales. Prior to 2007–08, assessments made under PPAF brought together assessments based on data with those based on professional judgement and performance was assessed as ‘excellent’, ‘good’, ‘fair’ or ‘poor’ and as ‘improved’, ‘stable’ or ‘deteriorated’. The publication was also complemented by comprehensive information available via the internet (<http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk>).

Following the publication of the Policing Green Paper (“From The Neighbourhood To The National: Policing Our Communities Together”)

in July 2008, the Home Office will no longer make graded assessments, which have been interpreted by some as de facto targets. Police Performance information for 2007–08 was published on the Home Office website on Friday 28th November 2008, with data for the final year of the PPAF framework. Data used within PPAF comes from a number of sources, including the British Crime Survey and recorded crime statistics.

Re-offending

Re-offending can be measured in several ways, including arrest data, self-report studies and official records. In England and Wales, re-offending is typically measured by counting re-offending as an official pre-court and/or court sanction that resulted from an offence committed during a specified follow-up period. As such, it under-records the true level of re-offending as not every reoffence will be detected and proceed to an official sanction. Although this is an acknowledged limitation, the measurement of court records allows a consistent benchmark against which reductions can be charted.

The process of measuring reoffending is complex and relies on the co-ordination of several databases. The re-offending results depend on accurately matching offenders on the NOMS caseload management systems with offences recorded on the Police National Computer (PNC). There are two main risks. Firstly, as with any administrative data system, there are risks that the quality of the data entered in these systems are occasionally inaccurate. Secondly, there may be systematic biases in the matching of offender records that could affect the results.

A full summary of the limitations of the methods and risks involved are included in the introduction to each report and in a quality statement that accompanies the results. Overall, it is felt that as the systems are operational systems it is unlikely that there are large-scale systematic errors in the data. There is further work to do to ensure that there are no biases in the offender matching, but these systems are used daily and no obvious biases have become apparent. In the medium term, NOMS is working to ensure that every offender has a unique identifier, which will remove the necessity of matching.

Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES).

The Witness and Victim Experience Survey (WAVES) is a national telephone survey of victims and witnesses in cases that have resulted in a criminal charge. Its purpose is to provide information at Local Criminal Justice Board (LCJB) level and national level (England and Wales) about victims' and witnesses' experiences of the Criminal Justice System (CJS), the services they receive and their satisfaction with different aspects of the system.

WAVES covers victims and prosecution witnesses aged 18 and over in the following crime types; violence against the person; robbery; burglary; theft and handling stolen goods; criminal damage. We do not interview victims and witnesses in sensitive cases, such as, sexual offences or domestic violence, crimes involving a fatality, and any crime where the defendant was a family member or a member of the witnesses' or victims' household, on ethical grounds. We also exclude police officers or other CJS official assaulted in the course of duty, and all police or expert

WAVES asks victims and witnesses in cases where an offender was charged about all aspects of their experiences with the CJS, from their first contact with the police to their experience at court.

Interviewers ask people about the extent to which they were satisfied with the services they received. We include victims and witnesses who go to court as well as those who do not. The survey, undertaken on a quarterly basis, aims to conduct approximately 38,800 interviews a year, 9,700 each quarter.

WAVES data relates to the period in which the case was finalised by the CJS, rather than the interview period. Data are weighted to enable the survey results to be representative of all eligible victims and witnesses in England and Wales. Weights are derived from the population profiles provided by LCJB areas. Data are analysed and quality assured by researchers from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform – Evidence and Analysis Unit, prior to reporting.

5. Value for money (VfM)

VfM outturn is subjected to data quality checks as part of the existing process for verifying numbers submitted by business areas. Variations and adjustments in the data may occur retrospectively due to the full-year effect of gains and the fact that outturn is drawn from diverse data systems.

6. Statistical and Technical Information

Confidence intervals

Surveys produce statistics that are estimates of the real figure for the population under study. These estimates are always surrounded by a margin of error of plus or minus a given range. This margin of error or confidence interval is the range of values between which the population parameter is estimated to lie. For example, at the 95 per cent confidence level (used in most surveys), over many repeats of a survey under the same conditions one would expect that these confidence intervals would contain the true population value in 95 per cent of cases.

Statistical significance

Statistics produced from surveys are most often estimates of the real figure for the population under study and therefore they may differ from the figures that would have been obtained if the whole population had been interviewed; this difference is known as sampling error. Because of the sampling error, differences in the figures may occur by chance rather than as a result of a real difference. Tests of statistical significance are used to identify which differences are unlikely to have occurred by chance. In tests that use a 5 per cent significance level, there is a 1 in 20 chance of an observed difference being solely due to chance.

Delivery Agreements

Technical detail on how PSA indicators are measured is set out in published Delivery agreements which can be found at:

- PSA 3: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_PSA3.pdf
- PSA 23: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_PSA23.pdf
- PSA 25: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_PSA25.pdf

- PSA 26: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_PSA26.pdf
- PSA 24: http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_PSA24.pdf

Technical notes

The technical notes to the Home Office PSA targets are available at www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/homeoffice_sr04_tns.pdf?view=Binary

Performance assessments

A number of performance indicators use survey data. In these cases the survey data must register at least a statistically significant change if we are to be reasonably sure that the measured change is due to an actual change rather than a statistical aberration. In these cases, where interim trends are moving in the right direction but a statistically significant change has not yet been achieved, we have assessed those as 'on course' (SR04), an 'improvement' (SR07). Where data trends are moving in the wrong direction or too slowly we have assessed those as 'slippage' (SR04).

Annex: Public Accounts Committee Recommendations

The majority of the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee since 2000 have been implemented. This annex provides further information on progress with implementing any outstanding recommendations.

1999-2000

Home Office: The Immigration and Nationality Directorate's Casework Programme

Recommendation	Update
<p>PAC conclusion (iii): We remain extremely concerned at the continuing existence of these backlogs, particularly the human misery for applicants and their families as well as the significant burden on taxpayers of paying benefits to applicants for longer than should be necessary. The Home Office are not living up to their responsibilities towards asylum seekers and others caught in these unacceptable delays and we expect the Government to demonstrate a rapid improvement in the level of service made available.</p>	<p>The former Home Secretary set out in his statement to Parliament in July 2006 that the Home Office would aim to conclude all 400-450,000 cases in the asylum backlog within five years by summer 2011.</p> <p>The Case Resolution Directorate is taking every care to resolve cases as efficiently as possible. It is committed to ending the years of uncertainty for these applicants while reducing the cost to the tax payer. By the end of October 2008 130,000 cases had been concluded, and UKBA are on track to meet the commitment to clear all the cases by summer 2011.</p>

2001-2002

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS: AIRWAVE

Recommendation	Update
<p>PAC conclusion (ii): Although some work had been undertaken to identify and value the potential benefits of Airwave, it is unlikely to provide an adequate framework for monitoring whether the benefits will in fact be achieved. We expect PITO to take forward the work of the Business Benefits Steering Group as a matter of priority and to be in a position to measure the benefits across police forces before Airwave is fully rolled out in 2005.</p>	<p>The National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) agrees that the framework originally developed by Police Information Technology Organisation for monitoring benefits was inadequate. Whilst there is benefit inherent in the service relating to speech clarity, encryption, improved coverage, national roaming and the emergency button, it would be very difficult now to establish the extent of benefit retrospectively and, if it were possible, the output is unlikely to justify the investment required. Airwave has been in operation for some time now and, as such, NPIA believes that the best way to ensure maximum value from Airwave is to manage it as a service. The governance structure for Airwave has been revised to enable this, and the NPIA continues to strive to obtain the best possible service on behalf of the Police Service. The need for a suitable framework to monitor the achievement of benefits is well understood and will be factored into the Future Communications Programme.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (v): A public sector comparator was not prepared until late in the procurement, and after a decision to use the PFI had already been made. It is therefore doubtful that the use of a comparator added anything significant to the decision making process. Departments need to think through what financial and other analyses are needed at each stage of procurement and to determine and implement the most effective means of testing whether value for money is likely to be achieved.</p>	<p>This is well understood as a general principle. For Airwave, this consideration will be incorporated into the appropriate work package for Airwave replacement within the Future Communications Programme.</p>

2002-2003

The only PAC reports relating to the Home Office in this reporting year referred to the National Offender Management Service. The creation of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ) under the Machinery of Government Changes means that these recommendations are now the responsibility of MOJ.

2003-2004

Improving service delivery: the Forensic Science Service

Recommendation	Update
<p>PAC conclusion (iv): The Agency does not receive regular feedback on the outcome of the cases in which it has been involved. The Agency should work with its partners in the criminal justice system—in particular the police and the courts—to learn the outcome of specific investigations and prosecutions. It should use this information to focus its resources on identifying any areas of weakness on meeting the needs of its customers case by case.</p>	<p>The Forensic Science Service (FSS) is actively seeking ways to link its forensic work to outcomes and have made significant progress on this in several areas – notably sexual offences. They also seek information on case outcomes in specific investigations and prosecutions but recognise that more can be done in this area. To this end they have regular meetings with customers and the Criminal Justice System and have formed an Independent Advisory Group to help FSS understand the specific needs of its customers in order to focus and organise its resources appropriately.</p> <p>Following feedback and direct input from all these groups, and as a result of the National Procurement Framework, FSS is planning a major transformation to align its skills and staff to directly meet its customers needs; they believe this will result in a partnership approach on cases enabling a better understanding of forensic effectiveness.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (vii): In considering plans for the future status of the Agency, the Home Office should obtain clear and robust analysis of the merits of different options, including the financial costs and benefits. In the event of public-private partnership status, the Home Office should specify how it will manage risks emanating from the separation of the forensic science service from the rest of the criminal justice system.</p>	<p>An analysis of the options for the future status of the then Agency included the financial costs and benefits. Following the recommendations of the McFarland Review, it was decided to form a Government owned limited Company (GovCo) to give the company time to adjust to commercial operation and to give time for the emerging market to develop. As a GovCo, the FSS is of course a Companies Act limited Company which competes for business against fully privatised competitors. No decision has yet been taken on any future status change although the Government remains supportive of the principle, recommended by McFarland, of eventual private sector involvement. Ministers have made clear that any decision about status change will take account, as a top priority, the needs of the criminal justice system.</p>

Criminal Records Bureau: delivering safer recruitment?

Recommendation	Update
<p>PAC conclusion (viii): The Bureau has achieved significant improvement in the turnaround times for handling Disclosures, with the majority now dealt with within target times. The turnaround target times were, however, less onerous in 2003–04 than for 2002–03, and the Bureau should look to improve the speed of service delivery now that its activities have stabilised.</p>	<p>The Criminal Records Bureau's (CRB) original service standards were set before the launch of what is a new and unique service and at a time when it was difficult to predict the optimum level of service that could be delivered. The experience of the first 12 months operation indicated that the standards were overly ambitious and new service standards were introduced in April 2003. Since then the CRB's overall performance has gradually improved. In 2006, the CRB introduced a new service level agreement with the police which included for the first time performance targets for the timely completion of the checks they carry out for each Enhanced CRB check. Police performance against these targets is published on a monthly basis on the CRB's website. In April 2007, the CRB tightened up the current service standard for issuing Enhanced CRB checks through the inclusion of a 99 per cent target for completing these checks in 60 days and introduced new targets that focussed on accuracy and quality. The impact of this work culminated in 2007–08 when the CRB exceeded its service standards for the first time.</p> <p>Since April 2008, the CRB has witnessed an unprecedented increase in demand for its service – which is running at 18 per cent higher than the equivalent period last year. This dramatic increase has affected CRB's overall performance for processing Enhanced CRB checks. For Standard CRB checks, which are processed entirely within the CRB, the CRB has however continued to exceed its service targets.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (ix): Disclosures should be extended to staff already employed as well as new recruits to enhance protection to vulnerable adults in particular.</p>	<p>Whilst CRB has tried to make its services as accessible to as wide a range of user groups as possible, it is not for the Bureau to direct employers or other organisations to ensure existing staff are checked.</p>

2004-2005

Improving the Speed and Quality of Asylum Decisions

Recommendation	Update
<p>PAC conclusion (iv): The Department should look to expand its fast-track procedures, drawing on its experiences at Harmondsworth and Oakington and on those of other countries such as the Netherlands.</p>	<p>Progress has been impacted by the need to use an increased proportion of our detention estate for foreign prisoners. However, Brook House (due to open in February 2009) and an extension to Harmondsworth in 2010 offer opportunities for detained fast track (DFT) extension.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (vii): Over the last five years, the proportion of appeals allowed has consistently exceeded the Directorate's target of 15 per cent, and has frequently exceeded 20 per cent. The appeals allowed rate has also varied significantly for applicants from different countries. The Directorate should examine why appeals are upheld, particularly amongst nationalities where appeal allowed rates are highest, and disseminate the lessons for improved decision-making to its caseworkers.</p>	<p>The Agency recognises that there is work to be done to meet the target of not more than 15 per cent of asylum appeals allowed. There are measures which the Agency has taken to attempt to address its performance at the appeal stage. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • putting in place an appeals process improvement group; • the creation of country-specific working groups which seek to provide expert advice to staff who appear in court; and • development and delivery of bespoke training covering specific technical and legal issues, focussed on improving performance. <p>This will be closely monitored over the next 12 months.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (viii): The Home Office should expand, beyond more senior staff, the number of caseworkers with expertise on particular countries or regions of the world to improve the quality and consistency of its decision-making.</p>	<p>No further progress will be made. Regionalisation of the asylum process has meant that the emphasis is on ensuring advice is accessible to all case owners rather than relying on smaller numbers of experts.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (x): The Directorate has put in place procedures to detect possible multiple applications, but has not always acted promptly to investigate concerns raised by third parties about potentially fraudulent claims. There should be a clear contact point within the Directorate for whistleblowers and for following up information received, and robust procedures for acting upon likely cases of fraud.</p>	<p>We have made it easier for individuals or organisations to raise concerns with us either in person, by telephone or through email. We also have arrangements in place for other government departments to validate cases for them, particularly Department for Work and Pensions. We have an agreement in place with Crimestoppers concerning the reporting of illegal working by members of the public. We continue to review internally how we manage information received from third parties and make the best use of it.</p>

Reducing crime: the Home Office working with Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

Recommendation	Update
<p>PAC conclusion (ii): Nearly £1 billion has been spent through Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships over the past five years, but fewer than half of the Partnerships consider that their work has contributed to a measurable reduction in crime. The Home Office should develop a framework to assist Partnerships in designing projects which will have a visible impact in reducing crime. Such projects are likely to be underpinned by rigorous analysis; to be targeted to achieve a demonstrable reduction in crime; to be a rational solution to the crime problem; and to be of sufficient scale to tackle the problem.</p>	<p>We have provided training and guidance in problem solving techniques such as the SARA (Scanning, Analysis, Respond, Assess) model to Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) and we have established an Effective Practice Database (EPD). The EPD was created to meet the demand among crime reduction practitioners for accessible ideas, in order to implement crime reduction interventions using the SARA model. We are aiming to ensure that the EPD not only fulfils expectations of a national database to search for effective practice on initiatives, but ultimately assist partnerships in improving crime and disorder reduction delivery. Ultimately the EPD seeks to demonstrate how utilising a problem solving model and working in partnership can have sustainable results.</p> <p>We are developing a National Support Framework (NSF) which will be one part of a coherent long term Home Office strategy to draw all of our support and capacity building work together for partnerships.</p> <p>The Strategic Partnership Problem Solving Group consisting of key stakeholders – will champion problem solving and complement the six Hallmarks of effective partnerships and developing NSF.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (v): The innovation and flexibility encouraged through the Partnerships has helped to inform some programmes now being run nationally, such as that aimed at prolific offenders. The Home Office should support successful local initiatives by promoting such schemes to other Partnerships and encouraging wider sharing and take up. In reviewing Partnerships' strategies, Home Office Regional Directors should question Partnerships about the extent to which they are adopting successful projects from elsewhere which are relevant to the crime problems outlined in their strategies.</p>	<p>As part of the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships (CDRPs) and Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) reform programme partnerships are required by statute to produce an Annual Strategic Assessment which is based on analysis of data and hard and soft intelligence from across all of the Responsible Authorities resulting in a higher prospect of achieving reductions in crime and disorder building on what was gained thus far. Effective practice is being shared through the Home Office Crime Reduction website.</p> <p>The Prolific Priority offenders (PPO) Programme was launched in Sept 2004. Every CDRP (and CSP in Wales) is covered by a PPO scheme, and are successfully tackling those causing most harm to their local communities. Home Office Regional Deputy Director's continue to work closely with partnerships to ensure that the PPO schemes are fully effective. This included encouraging schemes to include PPO in their improvement targets in their recent Local Area Agreements.</p> <p>The Home Office will seek other opportunities which can be captured through the proactive performance management of CDRPs/CSPs by Government Offices and the Home Office Crime Team in Wales, and is committed to bring about substantial improvements in the capture, evaluation and promulgation to Partnerships of information about what does and does not work in community safety.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (ix): Lessons learned in reducing bureaucracy for Partnerships could also be applied to the police. There is a need to ensure that valuable police time is not taken up unnecessarily with paperwork and bureaucracy. Although the Home Office already review each year their requirements for police data, the simpler funding arrangements for Partnerships could provide a model for further reducing the administrative burden on the police.</p>	<p>We have made a commitment in the recent Policing Green Paper to review the amount of data collected from forces by the centre, and the burden that this created, with the aim of reducing it by 50 per cent. The findings from the review will be reported shortly and will set out proposals for how the Home Office will reduce the burden of data collection on the police as well as ensuring that sufficiently robust mechanisms are in place to ensure that the burden in the future is kept to a minimum.</p>

2005-2006

Home Office: Reducing vehicle crime

Recommendation	Update
<p>PAC conclusion (ii): The Home Office will need to promote, with manufacturers, the development and installation of new vehicle security measures arising from technological advances, and be ready to require their adoption, or further improvements in vehicle security may be harder to achieve.</p>	<p>The Government's partnership with the Motor Industry, has contributed significantly to the reduction in vehicle crime, with many improvements in vehicle security. The Home Office has been working with the industry to ensure that the advances in technology are tailored to enhance crime reduction by target hardening vehicles.</p> <p>Between the 1995 and 2007-08 BCS, the number of vehicle related thefts has fallen by 66 per cent. Police recorded offences against vehicles show a 10 per cent fall in April to June 2008 compared with the same period in 2007. Recorded offences against vehicles in 2007-08 show a fall of 39 per cent since 2002-03 when the National Crime Recording Standard was first introduced.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (ix): Attempts to tighten control over the disposal of vehicles are being jeopardised by the failure of some Local Authorities to establish a register of motor salvage operators as required by the Motor Salvage Operators' Regulations 2000. As well as working with the ODPM and LGA to secure compliance, the HO should consider a policy of naming and shaming those authorities which fail to take action.</p>	<p>The Home Office commissioned a follow up survey by Ipsos Mori into the implementation and enforcement of the regulations. This revealed some improvement of about 15 % in the numbers of Local Authorities setting up registers proposals and there was also an increase in the number of forces that had been involved in enforcement activities.</p> <p>Further work was required at a local level led by the police under the remit of the ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service (AVCIS). We are now considering what further action is currently appropriate in response to this recommendation.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (xi): Unregistered motor salvage operators should be known to local authorities and the police yet few prosecutions have been brought under the Vehicles (Crime) Act 2001. The HO should identify with the police and local authorities reasons for this outcome, and take action as appropriate.</p>	<p>To address this guidance on minimum standards to assist the police in enforcing this legislation was introduced in April 2005. Compliance will in future be assessed by HMIC Inspections. We are considering what action to take with Local Authorities. The ACPO Vehicle Crime Intelligence Service AVCIS have done some work to raise awareness of the legislation and how it can be used.</p>

Returning failed asylum applicants

Recommendation	Update
<p>PAC conclusion (ii): The Directorate does not know the actual number of failed applicants awaiting removal, and lacks basic information on the whereabouts of people to enable it to effect removal. Based on data for failed applications and known removals at May 2004, up to 283,500 failed applicants could remain in the United Kingdom, although the Directorate only had details of 155,000 failed applications on its databases.</p>	<p>No government has ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and this includes failed asylum seekers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case. By December 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country through the e-borders programme. This is part of a programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.</p> <p>The former Home Secretary set out in his statement to Parliament in July 2006 that the Home Office would aim to conclude all 400-450,000 cases in the asylum backlog within five years by summer 2011.</p> <p>The Case Resolution Directorate is taking every care to resolve cases as efficiently as possible. It is committed to ending the years of uncertainty for these applicants while reducing the cost to the tax payer. By the end of October 2008 130,000 cases had been concluded and UKBA are on track to meet the commitment to clear all of the cases by summer 2011.</p>

Home Office Resource Accounts 2004-05 and follow-up on returning failed asylum applicants

Recommendation	Update
<p>PAC conclusion (vi): The Department should record in a single, central electronic database accessible both by HM Prison Service and the Immigration and Nationality Directorate the identity and nationality of these prisoners, what crimes they have committed, where they are being detained, the length of their sentence and progress in considering them for deportation.</p>	<p>There are strengthened processes between the UK Border Agency and the Ministry of Justice in order to ensure that those foreign criminals who have committed crimes within the UK and meet the relevant criteria are considered for deportation action.</p> <p>The Agency maintains its own database which is supplemented by information obtained from colleagues within the Ministry of Justice in order to ensure that pertinent information, including that on the nature of the crime, length of sentence and place of detention, is available for individual cases. Colleagues from within the Ministry of Justice may make a request for this information from caseworkers from within the UK Border Agency, who have access to this database. The Agency also conducts surgeries at prisons around the country in order to ensure that the prisons staff and prisoners are aware of any progress with cases – this is supplemented by a dedicated telephone line through which prisons may be provided an update on any individual case.</p>
<p>PAC conclusion (ix): The Department needs to address the factors which impede delivery or undermine effective management of its business. In particular, it needs to co-ordinate the operations of the separate strands of the business and establish clear lines of accountability for delivery.</p> <p>And</p> <p>PAC conclusion (x): The Home Office needs leadership, clear strategy and, above all, effective delivery if it is to restore public confidence in its ability to meet its objectives. The Home Secretary has announced that the Accounting Officer is to address poor performance, weak delivery, inadequate leadership and silo working as a matter of urgency. When we next take evidence, the Accounting Officer will need to demonstrate that his Department has made a convincing start on the fundamental changes in attitudes and methods required to deliver a business-wide transformation in the effectiveness of the organisation.</p>	<p>The 2008 Capability Re-Review says “the Home Office has made very substantial progress since its original Capability Review in 2006. It has developed a strong leadership team and clear strategic direction, and it has met its delivery targets. It has also put right many of the former weaknesses in systems, processes and capabilities”.</p> <p>The Capability Review found some stakeholders who said that they saw “internal silos” within the department. We are addressing this through specific focus on getting cross cutting policies, delivery and risk management right, through ensuring leaders and staff spend time at the front line and with delivery partners, through improving our relationships with stakeholders and delivery partners, and through engaging all our staff in the key strategic and policy issues.</p>

2006-2007

All the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in the session 2006-2007 have been implemented.

2007-2008

All the recommendations made by the Public Accounts Committee in the session 2007-2008 have been implemented.

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