

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Project: *CENTRICO*

Session: ITS Architecture

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Keywords: [HA, ACPO]

As part of the UK Government's 10 year plan for transport, the Highways Agency (HA) and the police are working together to strengthen the way England's motorway and trunk road network is managed.

This paper will explain the HA Roles and Responsibilities Review, derived from the growing pressure on the HA to improve the capacity of the existing network and reduce the impact of congestion and congestion related delays. Improvements for the Police so that they can focus their time on core policing issues is another aim of the review. The HA and the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) commissioned a review of roles and responsibilities in 2002. The aim was to gain agreement on the range of services that would be best provided by the Police, HA, or an alternative supplier. The implications of any transfer of responsibilities have also been identified.

Traditionally the HA and its contractors have built and maintained the network whilst the police service has provided an "operating" role, primarily addressing unplanned incidents.

The review makes recommendations to transfer some of the operational roles over to the HA. Where incidents occur, the police will still retain responsibility for investigation of criminality and, for major incidents, will be in charge at the scene and in control offices. However, additional HA resource will help to co-ordinate responses of other emergency services, manage traffic and re-open routes when the police have completed their investigations.

Work is being carried out alongside other initiatives such as providing better information to drivers, road education measures, plus the use of a range of roadside tools to make better use of existing roads.