

**Sara Thornton QPM**

CHIEF CONSTABLE

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29<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Councillor David Robertson  
Oxfordshire Partnership  
Oxfordshire County Council  
County Hall  
New Road  
Oxford  
OX1 1ND

Thank you for your letter dated 20<sup>th</sup> November regarding Oxfordshire LAA targets versus Thames Valley Police Authority Targets. I understand your concern about the difference between the LAA and Police Authority targets.

Police Authorities have a statutory responsibility to monitor the performance of police forces, as set out in Schedule 2 of the Police and Justice Act 2006 amending the Police Act 1996. They can set internal targets for performance and in this instance decided to set a single crime reduction target across the whole force. They need to set targets which are realistic and achievable. In respect of the targets for 2007/08 it was just not possible to set targets that were realistic and achievable and reflected the PSA1 target to reduce BCS crime. In essence there are two target setting regimes with different methodologies and requirements which leave us all in this unsatisfactory position.

That said, our performance against the LAA targets has been strong in three out of five districts. The table below shows our current LAA targets and performance for this year to date compared to the same period in the previous year, and our overall performance against the targets.

Local Policing Area (LPA)	LAA target (by March 2008 against a baseline of 2003/04)	Performance in the year to date compared to the same period last year	Current performance against target
Cherwell	-15%	-0.8%	-8.3%
Oxford City	-20%	-8.4%	-15%
South Oxfordshire	-15%	-4.2%	-6.8%
Vale of White Horse	-10.1%	-14.7%	-23%
West Oxfordshire	-11%	-1.8%	4.2%

We would welcome more input into the LAA targets and intend to take a more joined-up approach in the next round of negotiations, having learnt from our experiences in the first round of LAA. We are all working together towards crime reduction and I can assure you our efforts are not constrained by the targets set, whether those targets are realistic or not.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sara Thornton', written in a cursive style.

Sara Thornton  
Chief Constable

cc. Joanna Simons, Oxfordshire County Council