

TRAVEL POLICIES (Essential User Car Expenses)

INTRODUCTION

1. This report deals with 'Essential User' car expenses. It follows from a previous report to this Committee held on 11 April 2006 (minute 73 refers):-

"That the situation be noted and a final report submitted to the next meeting of this Committee."

BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION

2. A review of all posts that attract essential user car expenses has now been completed. At commencement of the review the number of posts was **106** (see Appendix 1). The posts are a mixture of operational and support staff.
3. Essential user car expenses are required for those posts with duties of such a nature that it is essential for the post-holder to have a motor car at his/her disposal whenever required. After due consideration the following criteria have been developed to determine which posts these are:
 - All superintending posts (on the basis that they regularly undertake forcewide cover for a range of operational responsibilities).
 - Those posts that have regular forcewide on-call cover responsibilities.
 - Where the normal mileage covered by the post-holder makes the utilisation of essential user car expenses economically viable.
 - Where the post-holder is a regular user of his/her private motor vehicle and designated an essential user on the basis of operational desirability.
4. Utilising these criteria the Deputy Chief Constable identified **28** of the current list of posts as no longer fitting the criteria as well as **6** other Detective Inspector posts that needed to be added to the list (see Appendix 2). These changes will realise a significant reduction in the total number of essential users to **84**, a drop of **21%**.

CONCLUSION

5. It is proposed to introduce these changes from 1 October 2006. Additionally, in the future, designation of posts for essential use car expenses will only be on the authority of a Chief Officer. This will ensure consistency across the force.

RECOMMENDATION

6. It is recommended that:
 - i. This report is noted.
 - ii. That a further report is received in 12 months time.

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Background Papers: Nil