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Home Office Regional Directors

DAT/CDRP INTEGRATION AND CDRP MERGERS

As you are aware, Ministers have now written to DAT and CDRP Chairs and DAT and CDRP Co-ordinators/Community Safety Officers confirming their expectation that all DATs and CDRPs in unitary/metropolitan authorities will integrate and that DATs and CDRPs in two-tier authorities should adopt closer working arrangements. The letter acknowledges the effort that many of them have put into achieving greater integration and also thanks those who contributed to the DAT/CDRP Implementation Group.

What we are seeking to achieve is a position where all DATs and CDRPs in unitary authorities are operating as if they were a single partnership. This will mean, for example, that all partnerships have in place aligned and integrated planning, support and (through the "single pot") funding arrangements for delivery of the crime reduction and drugs agendas. DATs and CDRPs must secure the best local arrangements to achieve this whilst involving the full range of players. The partnerships should also reflect the key characteristics of successful partnership working outlined in Leigh Lewis' letter of 3 July. Where this is not the case, we need you to engage with Chief Executives, emphasising the benefits, to make sure that it happens.

We are aware that our records of DATs and CDRPs, which have integrated - based on the checklist returns you sent earlier in the year - are now out of date. To enable us to return to Ministers with accurate information, please let us know:

- the number of DATs/CDRPs in unitary/metropolitan authorities that can be described as integrated according to the above criteria;
- the number of DATs/CDRPs in unitary/metropolitan authorities which are not yet working in this way and an action plan setting out (with timescales) how you intend to make this happen;
- the number of DATs/CDRPs in two-tier authorities which have adopted closer working arrangements;
- the number of DATs/CDRPs in two-tier authorities which are not yet working in this way and an action plan setting out (with timescales) how you intend to make this happen.

We have been contacted by some CDRPs wishing to merge formally with neighbouring CDRPs in accordance with Section 97(3) of the Police Reform Act 2002. As the formal merger process requires secondary legislation, we need to plan how to take this forward. Please provide details of all CDRPs which have already merged on an informal basis and all those wishing to merge in the near future.

Please send responses to Jessie Laurie (jessie.laurie@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk) by **14 November 2003**.

With the assistance of regional teams, we have been working on more comprehensive guidance on DAT/CDRP integration which we plan to issue in the coming weeks. A copy of the draft guidance is attached for your information. We recognise that further work is needed to strengthen the minimum criteria for closer working before the draft is finalised (paragraph 2.2) and would be grateful for your further comments on this part of the guidance. Again, please forward any comments to Jessie Laurie.

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