



Home Office

Crime Reduction & Community Safety Group

Tilley Awards 2008 Application form

Please ensure that you have read the guidance before completing this form. **By making an application to the awards, entrants are agreeing to abide by the conditions laid out in the guidance.** Please complete the following form in full, within the stated word limit and ensuring the file size is no more than 1MB. Failure to do so will result in your entry being rejected from the competition.

Completed application forms should be e-mailed to tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk.

All entries must be received by noon on **Friday 25th April 2008**. No entries will be accepted after this time/date. Any queries on the application process should be directed to Alex Blackwell on 0207 035 4811.

Section A: Application basics

1. Title of the project: **Project Lock It, Protect It!**
2. Key issue that the project is addressing e.g. Alcohol related violence: **Burglary of Insecure Dwellings**

Author contact details

3. Name of application author: **Ian Bentley**
4. Organisation submitting the application: **Staffordshire Police**
5. Full postal address: **Police Station, Horninglow Street, Burton-on-Trent, Staffordshire, DE14 1PA**
6. Email address: **ian.bentley371@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk**
7. Telephone number: **01785 235944**

Secondary project contact details

8. Name of secondary contact involved in the project: **Susannah Bentley**
9. Secondary contact email address: **Susannah.bentley@staffordshire.gov.uk**
10. Secondary contact telephone number: **01785 277371**

Endorsing representative contact details

11. Name of endorsing senior representative from lead organisation: **Supt David Forrest**

12. Endorsing representative's email address: **David.Forrest@staffordshire.pnn.police.uk**

13. For all entries from England & Wales please state which Government Office or Welsh Assembly Government your organisation is covered by e.g. GO East Midlands: **GO West Midlands**

14. Please mark this box with an X to indicate that all organisations involved in the project have been notified of this entry (this is to prevent duplicate entries of the same project):

Section B: Summary of application - *In no more than 400 words use this space to provide a summary of your project under the stated headings (see guidance for more information).*

Scanning:

Through the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) Joint Operations Groups concern was raised over the volume and increase in insecure burglaries across Trent Valley Division. Performance information identified that burglary a PSA1 target was increasing. Burglary dwelling was also highlighted as a concern to the public and is a known contributor to the overall fear of crime.

Insecure burglary dwellings can also result in car thefts, the use of stolen credit cards in fraud. This crime type was identified as a problem across all three CDRPs in Trent Valley and it was considered that by targeting this type of burglary there would be a diffusion of benefits, potentially reducing all types of burglary.

Analysis:

Four Neighbourhoods were identified as recording the highest number of offences, and analysis identified that the majority of premises within targeted were terraces rented from housing associations.

There were two peak times, around lunchtime and later at night. The majority of premises were entered via a ground floor door, but a higher percentage was entered via a window at night. Cash and cards were stolen in 60% of offences suggesting an opportunist nature and offenders were targeting items that could be easily concealed. Car keys were more likely to be stolen overnight, which linked these offences to a trend in vehicle thefts.

Victim profiles revealed a fairly even distribution across gender and age groups, however residents over 75 were more likely to be targeted during the day. The majority of offenders were white males, with an average age of 21.

Response:

A project plan was drawn up which focussed initiatives on the results of the analysis and the three sides of the Problem Analysis Triangle.

Activities included:

- Media campaign to increase victim awareness and highlight the perceived risk to offenders,
- Home visits and crime prevention advice issued to high risk addresses,
- High visibility patrols conducted by officers from partner agencies,
- Property marking equipment distributed as part of a high profile campaign,
- Cocoon Watch conducted to highlight awareness to potential victims.

Assessment:

A full results analysis completed at the conclusion of the project identified:

- A reduction of 33% of insecure burglary dwellings in the hotspot locations
- A reduction of 34% of insecure burglary dwellings across the whole of the Division
- A reduction of 13% in total burglary dwellings across the whole of the Division.

State number of words: 397

Section C: Description of project - Describe the project in no more than 4,000 words. Please refer to the full guidance for more information on what the description should cover, in particular section 11.

Scanning:

During 2007/08, performance management of the PSA1 targets highlighted that there had been an increase in the number of Burglary Dwellings recorded in Trent Valley Division, and two out of the CDRPs within the area (East Staffordshire and Lichfield) were of concern. This issue had also been raised at the police Tasking and Coordination meeting and at the CDRP Joint Operations Group due to an increase in offences compared with a significant reduction over recent years. Based on the previous 12 months burglaries had increased on East Staffordshire by 76 (22%) and in Lichfield by 87 (29%).

This problem was initially identified in January 2007 whilst involved in a joint Problem Solving exercise, and scanning over the previous 3-years highlighted that historically the level of burglary dwellings recorded increased further during the summer months (Increase of 62 (23%) over the preceding 4 months in 2006). Additional researched highlighted that this seasonal peak was mostly due to an increase in the number of premises being left insecure as a consequence of the warmer weather (Increase of 76 (152%) over the preceding 4 months in 2006).

Between the months of June and September in 2004, 2005 and 2006, 30% of all domestic burglaries occurred at insecure premises, compared with 25% over the whole 3-year period. The peak period was July which rose to 33%.

Further research (both local and national) identified that this type of burglary was predominantly opportunist but could lead to possibly more serious offences of violence if the offender was to be disturbed whilst in the premises.

It was understood that the weather played a big influencing factor in this type of crime, and that based on historical crime trends and early projections for good weather, the likelihood was that it would peak again in the summer of 2007 unless interventions were put in place. It was recognised that reducing this type of burglary would have a significant affect on the total levels of burglary recorded across the division and therefore contribute to a reduction in overall BCS Comparator Crime for each of the CDRPs.

Community consultation through the Citizen Contact Records and Safer Neighbourhood Interview Questionnaires revealed that burglary was not currently a major concern for local residents in the Trent Valley area, with Anti-Social Behaviour and Criminal Damage being mentioned far more frequently. These surveys are part of an ongoing community consultation process conducted by both the Police and CDRP. However the Community Consultation did identify that burglary still has an impact on resident's feelings of safety, and that a high profile crime reduction campaign could help to reduce the fear of crime and improve perceptions of the levels of all types of crime.

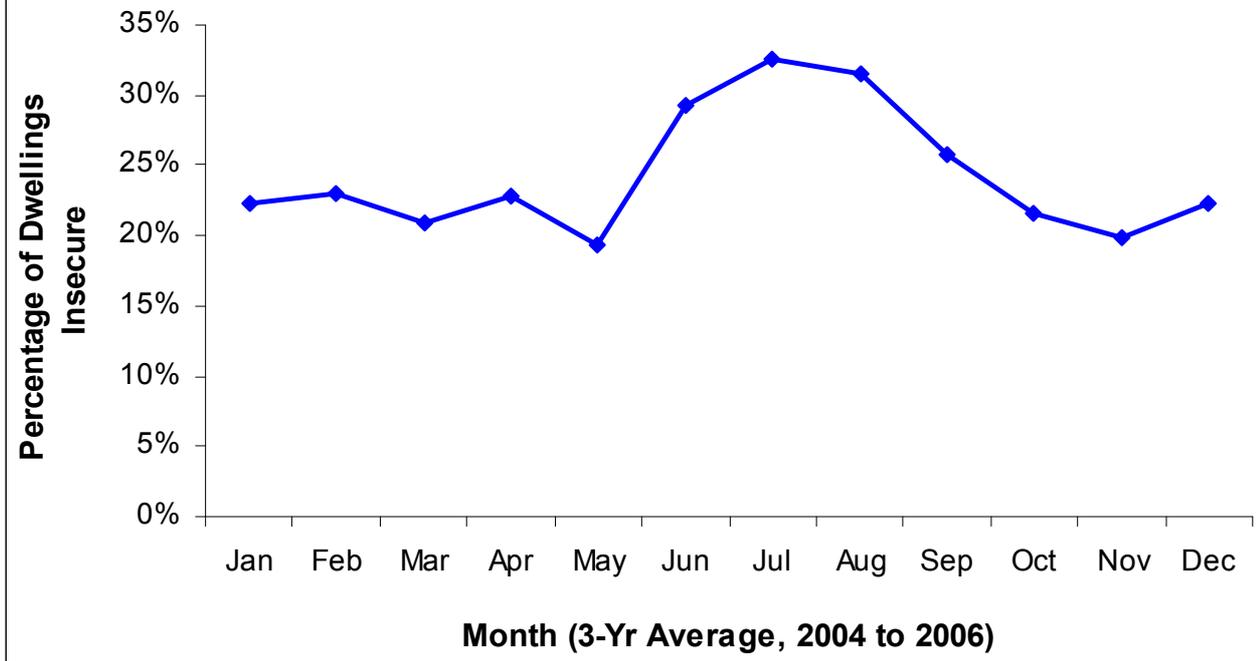
Although there were other crime types that recorded a much higher volume of offences than insecure burglary (such as Criminal Damage and Violence, for example), strategies and initiatives were already in place across East Staffordshire, Lichfield and Tamworth to tackle these sorts of crimes. There was no record of any partnership activity being conducted in the past to tackle insecure burglaries, and therefore it was suggested that a strategy be put in place to see what results could be achieved if all three CDRPs were to work together to tackle this emerging problem.

Analysis:

All burglaries recorded by Staffordshire Police are allocated a number of 'profile codes', which describe the Modus Operandi of each crime, including whether the dwelling was insecure (doors and/or windows open or unlocked). This allowed for the easy identification of those burglaries that were insecure and those that were entered in a different way.

Three years worth of data was analysed to give a full picture to the extent of insecure burglary in the Trent Valley area. Over the three year period in total, 25% of all burglary dwellings were profiled as being insecure, and between the months of June and September this percentage increased to 30%. The peak month during each of the three years was July, with insecure burglaries making up one-third of all burglary dwellings recorded during this month. This seasonal trend of an increase during the summer months suggested a correlation with warmer weather and residents leaving doors and windows open, both when occupying the dwelling and also when out and about.

Insecure Burglary Dwelling Recorded in Trent Valley Division as a Percentage of all Burglary Recorded



As the peak period for insecure burglary was clearly during the summer months, the subsequent analysis focussed on crimes that had occurred between June and September over the last three years, rather than using the full 36 months of data.

When measured relative to the number of households, Burton Neighbourhood Policing Unit (NPU) recorded the highest rate of offences, followed by Lichfield NPU and Tamworth NPU. Within these three NPUs, there were four Neighbourhoods identified that recorded above average levels of insecure burglary dwellings. The four Neighbourhood areas were Horninglow and Uxbridge in Burton NPU, Amington in Tamworth NPU and Curborough in Lichfield NPU. Crimes recorded in these Neighbourhoods accounted for 30% of the divisional total, and so it was decided that all initiatives would be concentrated in these areas in order to make the most efficient use of resources.

Specific analysis was then carried out for the offences that had occurred within each of these priority Neighbourhoods, which identified the peak days and times and also any physical and demographic features of the area which may contribute to the above average levels of insecure burglary.

Temporal Analysis

Temporal analysis identified that the majority of offences have historically occurred during two peak times periods; the first between midday and 2pm and the second between 10pm and midnight.

M.O.

Further analysis on the method of entry and property stolen was therefore split into two sub-sets; those offences occurring during the day (between 8am and 8pm) and those occurring overnight (8pm to 8am), so that differences in MOs could be identified for different times of the day.

The majority of premises were entered via the ground floor (82%), through a door and just over one-third of dwellings were entered through a window. The percentage of premises entered via a window was higher at night than during the day, suggesting that occupants were leaving their windows open when they went to bed, or if they left the house at night.

Cash and/or credit cards were stolen in nearly 60% of all recorded insecure burglary dwellings, reinforcing the hypothesis that offenders were targeting small and easily concealed items. Mobile phones and keys were stolen more frequently during the night, when the victim is less likely to have them on their person. In the majority of

occasions when keys were stolen, the victim's car was also taken.

Almost 30% of all properties burgled were terraced; however this type of dwelling makes up just 21% of all housing within the Trent Valley division. It is evident that a disproportionate number of terraced houses were burgled via an insecure door or window than semi-detached or detached premises.

Hotspots

Analysis revealed that in Uxbridge and Horninglow the peak period was between 4pm and midnight on various days of the week, but specifically Saturday. These hotspot areas were both within close proximity to a number of main roads leading in and out of the town, and also close to the town centre. The types of dwellings within these areas were mostly terraced properties with a high level of dwellings per square mile, and a large proportion of those within Horninglow were housing association or Registered Social Landlord (RSL) owned.

In Curborough the peak period for insecure burglary was during the daytime (10am – 4pm) on weekdays, potentially when most of the residents were away from their homes. Again this area has a large proportion of housing association and RSL owned properties but these were mostly semi-detached or maisonette style properties. The main road within Curborough leads directly into the city centre, giving easy access to the area.

There were two distinct hotspots within the Amington Neighbourhood; one area has a high level of local authority houses whereas the other contains mostly private properties; however these areas are linked by a main road which leads into the town centre.

Victimology

When victim details were analysed it became apparent that during the day there was a higher than average level of victims targeted that were above the age of 75 years. It was felt that this could have been because individuals within this age range were more likely to be at home during the day rather than out at work, and were therefore more likely to have doors and windows open or unlocked during the summer months. Offenders may also have targeted this age group as they are more likely to have cash on the premises. In each case the offenders have entered without the occupant's knowledge and no contact has been made.

Offender profiles revealed that the majority were male and aged between 15 and 29 years, with an average age of 21. Intelligence records revealed that just over two-thirds of detected offences were committed by offenders who have connections to drugs. Unfortunately offender details were only available for those offences that had previously been detected, and this was a relatively small sample size. However, qualitative information provided to local police officers and intelligence staff suggested that the majority of offenders involved in this type of burglary generally targeted areas within a close proximity of their home address. Very few travelled out of the area to commit insecure burglaries, and it was felt to be mostly opportunist which follows the principles of Routine Activity Theory.

Response:

The working group, which comprised of CDRP Managers, Police Partnership Sergeants, Analysts and Performance Development Officer, initially compiled a series of presentations to deliver to partner organisations at a strategic level in order to gain support and resources to enable delivery of the project at ground level. These presentations were delivered by members of the working group at Responsible Authority and Community Safety Partnership meetings during spring of 2007. This also facilitated discussion between partners around what else could be provided in terms of response from those organisations which had not been previously considered by the working group.

Once the backing of partner agencies had been obtained, a programme of briefings was arranged aimed at those resources which were to conduct the various interventions. These briefings took the form of electronic presentations, explaining the findings of the analysis, the overall aims of the project and the individual roles that each agency would be undertaking to progress the project.

With the partner agencies fully acquainted with the aims and objectives of the project, the team were then able to begin a media campaign which also tied in with a national television campaign around burglaries and home security. This was selected as a result of findings that residents did not believe burglary to be an issue within their area despite evidence to the contrary. Awareness raising was therefore important to remind residents of the importance of maintaining security. Evaluations from National Campaigns have shown significant reductions when a media campaign has been utilised as part of a raft of interventions.

This media campaign was aimed at three different aspects of the insecure burglary problem. Firstly there was a need to notify the residents of the hotspot areas, and beyond, of the need to consider home security and prevent the risk of insecure property. Secondly it was beneficial to make potential offenders aware of the campaign in terms of them being deterred from committing crime of this nature. Thirdly there was the benefit of increasing capable guardianship within identified areas by allowing residents to work with partners around identifying potential issues and suspicious

individuals. The media campaign took the form of both press and radio releases. The reason for this choice was the existence of a television campaign and the need to address as many individuals as possible by the widest variety of means available.

As an added incentive to take notice of the project and the issues that instigated it, property marking kits were purchased by the Community Safety Partnerships were also offered to residents. These kits were also publicised in recognition of the opportunity to deter potential offenders by showing that property within the area was identifiable. The distribution of these kits enabled the Partnership to have direct contact with the residents and acted as a catalyst for discussion over burglary security issues.

Activity within the geographical areas then commenced, using the resources identified by the working group as being of value to the project. The preventative campaign commenced with work in local schools. This was based on a previous campaign where it had been noted that by using an interactive educational tool with children has a beneficial effect in terms of subsequently educating their siblings and parents. Simply put, a young child will often absorb information more readily and talk to their family about what they have learned. On this basis a competition was run promoting the aims of the campaign around home security. A prize, provided by the Community Safety Partnership for that area was offered to the pupil who gave the best responses to the questions raised.

In an effort to bolster awareness in the run up to the operation itself, each area which had been identified as being at high risk were visited by resources from the Police and Local Authorities who were provided with crime prevention and risk awareness leaflets for distribution. In order to avoid any potential for increasing fear of crime with residents, these leaflets were specifically drawn up to reflect the positive potential for reducing crime by increased vigilance and by working as communities to aid one's neighbours.

The realisation that many of the offenders involved in this type of crime were locally based and therefore likely to see or hear notice of the project was also considered in terms of criminal intelligence. Each of the leaflets distributed included a request for anonymous information, via Crimestoppers, around those local offenders conducting crime in the area.

Resources were then targeted in the hot spot areas and commenced a co-ordinated patrol plan, with Police Officers, PCSOs, Street Wardens and Fire Officers working together to identify potential target premises and, where those premises which were insecure were located, advice was given to the resident or, where appropriate, a specifically designed advice leaflet was provided. This service was bolstered by the offer of a security survey from a trained Crime Prevention Officer in cases where target hardening appeared to be necessary. These patrols had the added benefit of being a high visibility resource thus acting as a deterrent for offenders and providing residents with re-assurance.

In terms of activity undertaken when offences were committed, a further series of interventions were put into place to ensure that the potential to prevent repeat victimisation was maximised. Firstly, a program labelled "Cocoon Watch" was put into place. This involves officers attending the scene making visits and issuing cards to inform residents that a burglary has taken place in their street, requesting vigilance and assistance for their neighbours. This is marketed as a means to increase community support rather than highlight fear of crime. Additional security advice and products, paid for by the CSP were also offered where appropriate.

Where offenders for these crimes were identified, arrangements were made for specifically trained detectives to deal with them whilst in custody. This intervention had a number of aims: to increase the probability of securing a conviction and recovering stolen property, to facilitate the collation of criminal intelligence in view of the probability that the offenders were local and would know of other criminal activity in the area. Thirdly there may be the opportunity to increase our knowledge of how these offenders selected areas and premises for targeting. The final aim was to gather information in terms of property disposal and identities of handlers of stolen property.

Police and partnership analysts were also tasked with conducting regular reviews of both activity and outcomes in the highlighted areas. This was necessary to ensure that the interventions were achieving the desired result and also to monitor the potential for displacement of offences from patrolled areas. This information was fed back to each of the Joint Operations Groups in order to re-allocate resources on a regular basis as and when necessary.

Assessment:

During the 4-month period between June and September 2007, the Community Safety Partnership Managers at East Staffordshire, Lichfield District and Tamworth led the project through the separate Joint Operations Group (JOG)

meetings, which were held on a fortnightly basis. To assist the meetings and to ensure that there was a divisional overview, details and analysis regarding recorded offences being reviewed by the project were included within both the fortnightly divisional and JOG Tactical Assessments.

An interim Results Analysis was prepared after the first 2-months which did identify a shift in some of the 'hotspot' locations; however due to the continuing low number of offences being reported, a decision was made by each of the CDRPs to continue the main focus on the original target areas.

Results – Insecure Burglaries recorded between June and September 2007 by hotspot areas and divisional total.

Hot Spot Neighbourhoods	Insecure Burglary		All Burglary	
	Actual	3yr Avg (Jun – Sep)	Actual	3yr Avg (Jun – Sep)
XD04 – Uxbridge	3	8	16	24
XD30 – Horninglow	3	6	14	16
XF80 – Curborough	0	6	1	23
XG50 – Bolehall	0	5	3	16
XG60 – Amington	5	7	22	29
Hot Spot Total	11	32	56	108
Trent Valley Total	79	119	348	399

During the project period a total of 79 offences of Insecure Burglary Dwellings were recorded which was a reduction of **40** (33%) compared with the previous 3-year summer average. (The 3-year summer average was used to smooth yearly fluctuations in the number of insecure burglary dwellings recorded during the summer months)

Within the designated 'hotspot' areas there was a total of 11 offences which compared to the previous 3-year summer average was a reduction of 21 (34%)

The savings cost of crime based on 'anticipation', 'consequence' and 'response' from the Economic and Social Costs of Crime against Individuals and Households 2003/04 – Home Office Online Report 30/05 identifies that when compared to the previous 3-year summer average it highlights a potential saving of £68,628 within the 'hotspot' areas and a saving of £130,720 across the Trent Valley division as a whole. This is based on the average cost of a burglary is £3,268.

Although there was positive action undertaken within the 'hotspot' areas it should also be borne in mind that the summer of 2007 was not as predicted and according to the Metrological Office was not only the wettest since UK figures began in 1914 but only averaged a temperature of 14°C. Due to the weather conditions householders probably had less opportunities to leave doors and windows open whilst in the garden or in the house, and this is likely to have impacted on the number of insecure burglaries recorded.

A full Results Analysis was conducted at the conclusion of the project and a number of recommendations were made. These included a full press release highlighting the success of the project (which has now been implemented) and a recommendation to repeat the project in summer 2008 but with a central co-ordinator appointed to ensure that 'best practice' is shared between the three CDRPs.

Conclusion

In conclusion the project 'Lock It, Protect It!' was successful against each of its original aims:

Aim	Result
Reduce Burglary of insecure dwellings within the hotspot locations of the Trent Valley area during the months of June to September 2007	Reduction of 21 offences (33%) against 3-yr average (Potential Cost Saving of £68,628)
Reduce insecure Burglary dwellings across the whole of the Trent Valley area	Reduction of 40 offences (34%) against 3-yr average (Potential Cost Saving of £130,720)
Have a 'diffusion of benefits' by impacting on all offences of Burglary Dwelling in Trent Valley.	Reduction of 51 offences (13%) against 3-yr average (Potential Cost Saving of £166,668)

The project has clearly identified that utilising a Joint CDRP Problem Solving approach to target a universal concern, can be effective in its result, create a positive response and pro-actively involve a vast array of Partnership Agencies.

Although there was no new innovative response, it did highlight that the use of a combination of tried and trusted methods as long as they are targeted at the right areas as identified by strong analysis can still be effective.

The success of this project combined with the low implementation costs, balanced against the potential savings as shown above has led all 3 CDRPs involved to initiate similar campaigns for the Summer of 2008.

The project has been seen as a success not only through the reduction in crime, but has forged greater collaboration between the three CDRPs, the Police and other agencies in coming together to create stronger and safer communities through Problem Solving.

State number of words used: 3473

Section D: Endorsement by Senior Representative - Please insert letter from endorsing representative, this will not count towards your word or 1MB size limit restrictions.

Dear

Re: Supporting letter re Trent Valley Division's submission for the Tilley Award 2008

Trent Valley's submission relates to a multi-agency crime reduction initiative which was steered jointly by Mr Ian Bentley and Mrs Susie Bentley.

The initiative titled 'Lock It - Prevent It' was formulated in response to an increasing number of burglaries at people's homes. A common theme in each of these crimes was that the owners had left the properties insecure and in consequence made the criminals endeavours far easier to complete.

The initiative had full support from all three CDRP's serving the Trent Valley policing division. This support came from the highest levels and permutated through the community safety units of each authority.

The award application will demonstrate the positive results achieved by the initiative but I highlight a more fundamental benefit to you. This benefit is in the form of enhanced partner relations across all organisations involved which will serve as well as remove in to the arena local area agreements.

I would fully endorse the application and am grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment of these individuals who by working together have made Trent Valley a safer place for its diverse communities.

Yours sincerely

David Forrest, LL.B (Hons), PGC Mgt
Superintendent

Trent Valley Divisional Headquarters
Horninglow Street, Burton on Trent DE14 1PA
Tel. No. 08453 302010

Checklist for Applicants:

1. Have you read the process and application form guidance?
2. Have you completed all four sections of the application form in full including the endorsement from a senior representative?
3. Have you checked that your entry addresses all aspects of the judging criteria?
4. Have you advised all partner agencies that you are submitting an entry for your project?
5. Have you adhered to the formatting requirements within the guidance?
6. Have you checked whether there are any reasons why your project should **not** be publicised to other police forces, partner agencies and the general public e.g. civil or criminal proceedings pending in relation to your project?
7. Have you inserted your project name as a footer note on the application form? Go to View-Header and Footer to add it.
8. Have you saved you application form as a word document and entitled your message '**Tilley 08 entry (followed by project name in brackets)**' before emailing it?

Once you are satisfied that you have completed your application form in full please email it to Tilleyawards08@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk. One hard copy must also be posted to Alex Blackwell at Home Office, Effective Practice & Communication Team, 4th Floor, Fry Building (SE Quarter), 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 4DF and be received by 25th April 2008.