
Report by the Chief Constable

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STATE VISIT: POPE BENEDICT XVI**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 On the morning of Thursday, 16 September, 2010 Pope Benedict XVI arrived at Edinburgh Airport to begin a State Visit to the United Kingdom. He was accompanied by a number of prominent figures from the Roman Catholic Church.

2. Planning

- 2.1 Planning for Operation Zinnia involved numerous partner agencies including Strathclyde Police, Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), The City of Edinburgh Council, Scottish Government, The Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Roman Catholic Church. Formal planning meetings were staged over a period of months with Government departments, between UK Police Forces and involving senior officials of the Church.

3. Arrival and State Welcome at the Palace of Holyroodhouse

- 3.1 Upon arrival at Edinburgh Airport His Holiness was met by HRH The Duke of Edinburgh. After a brief ceremonial welcome a motorcade, accompanied by a full Road Policing escort and security regime, proceeded via the City Centre to the Palace.
- 3.2 At Holyrood His Holiness was formally welcomed to the United Kingdom by Her Majesty the Queen. After a short private audience with the Queen, his Holiness addressed 400 guests in the gardens of the Palace.

4. St Ninian's Day Parade

- 4.1 Whilst His Holiness was within the Palace a St Ninian's Day Parade was staged in the City Centre. Participants comprised 1,000 Pipers and 1,000 invited children from St Ninian's Roman Catholic Schools around Scotland. The parade passed along the entire length of Princes Street, where large crowds were gathered.

5. Papal Procession

- 5.1 His Holiness departed Holyrood in the Popemobile and travelled through the City Centre to the official residence of Cardinal O'Brien in Morningside. The Papal motorcade was escorted throughout by close-protection officers and Vatican security staff. Barriers were also placed along the entire route, with police officers deployed at regular intervals.

6. Cardinal's Residence

- 6.1 Following the Papal Procession, His Holiness arrived at the Cardinal's Official Residence, where he was greeted by 400 children from the nearby St Peter's Roman Catholic Primary School. He took the opportunity to participate in a brief walkabout, during which he spoke to residents and visitors. He was then guest of Cardinal O'Brien at a private lunch.

7. Escort to Harthill

- 7.1 On departing the Cardinal's residence, the Papal motorcade travelled to Glasgow via the M8 motorway, leaving the Force area at Harthill. Escort personnel comprised officers from both Lothian and Borders and Strathclyde Police Forces.

8. Media Coverage

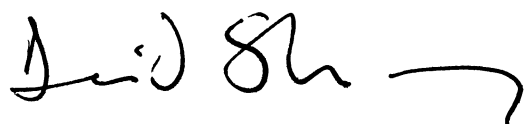
- 8.1 Throughout the event there was extensive media coverage with the visit being televised live across the globe. It was estimated that a media corps in excess of 1,000 staff was present within the City.

9. Police Resources

- 9.1 All Divisions were required to participate in Operation Zinnia, with Public Support Units held in reserve. Local firearms and close protection teams were augmented by staff from the MPS and a number of Scottish Police Forces. In total, over 900 Police officers and staff were deployed.
- 9.2 Total expenditure for Operation Zinnia was £543,226. Negotiations are underway with the Scottish Government over the recovery of expenses, and costs considered to be additional to those associated with normal duties.

10. Recommendation

- 10.1 That the Board notes the report.



David Strang
Chief Constable

18 January 2011