



MEDIA RELEASE

7th December 2009

**New Metropolitan Police Authority Custody Centre
rapidly takes shape in Leyton**

Rapid progress is being made by Wates Construction on the Waltham Forest Borough Custody Centre in Leyton for the Metropolitan Police Authority, the first such centre to be delivered under an innovative new construction framework for Greater London.

Only 23 weeks into the build programme which started this June, Wates 'topped out' the 30-cell centre on Friday 4th December and remains firmly on schedule to complete the project in Autumn 2010.

Progress has been marked by the laying of a foundation stone led by Deputy Assistant Commissioner, Lynne Owens from the Metropolitan Police and Jonny Wates, Director of the Wates Group.

Steve Russell, Wates' Project Director said, 'We are delighted to be continuing our relationship with the Metropolitan Police on the first Custody Centre under this new, innovative framework for Greater London. Thanks to the collective efforts of the entire construction team, including consultants McBains Cooper and project managers Driver Jonas, we are progressing on programme with an excellent safety record across the project.'

Peter Ross, Director Construction, Metropolitan Police Service said: 'Our work at Waltham Forest Custody Centre shows the quality we set for our new buildings. This building will be crucial for policing the borough but is also part of our wider plans for similar new facilities to improve custody provision across the capital.'

Catherine Crawford, Metropolitan Police Authority chief executive, said: 'By delivering improved police buildings across London we are working to ensure that the Metropolitan Police Authority estate remains efficient and attains the highest standard we expect for the public, our staff and officers. For that reason, today is a very important day not only for this project but also for the bigger drive to modernise the estate and make policing more efficient across the boroughs.'

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Notes to Editors

Wates

Wates is one of the UK's largest family-owned construction services and development companies. Established in 1897, it remains privately owned by the Wates Family. Wates employs more than 2,200 people and had a turnover of £1,009 million in 2008.

The company works across a range of sectors, including education, prisons, affordable housing, retail fit out and refurbishment, office interiors, land development and commercial buildings.

Wates has three areas of Corporate Responsibility focus: to reduce the impact of CO2 emissions from our activities; Target Zero of eliminating all non-hazardous waste to landfill by 2010; and boosting skills and employability in areas of most need. Wates was awarded Silver status in the Business in the Community Responsible Business index in 2008.

Safety is a top priority within the Wates Group, and the excellent safety record has resulted in RoSPA Gold Awards for Occupational Safety and the British Safety Council Awards for the past six years.

Metropolitan Police

Overall responsibility for the Metropolitan Police estate is vested in the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA), the statutory organisation responsible for ensuring an efficient and effective police service for London.

Day-to-day management of the police estate is delegated by the MPA to the Metropolitan Police Service's Property Services Department. The estate comprises over 600 operational buildings used by over 54,000 police officers, Police Community Support Officers and staff.

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