

Decision No 2013/32



REPORT TO: POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

REPORT BY: ALAN BROWN- HEAD OF MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS

DATE: 3 DECEMBER 2013

TITLE: REGIONAL COLLABORATION - SINGLE WORKFLOW SOLUTION – ACQUISITION OF COMMUNICATIONS DATA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Home Office Communications Capabilities Development Programme recently carried out a review of the use of Communications Data (CD) throughout the North West and produced a 'Regional Co-operation Paper' as part of the scope to identify ways to develop regional collaboration.

From this it was recommended that all forces move to a single workflow platform, configured to share information and that one force would host the IT platform for the region.

The regional workflow solution and disaster recovery site will be based on a single IT platform hosted by Merseyside Police on behalf of the region.

The licencing and implementation costs will be fully covered by Home Office grant as will any local IT infrastructure costs.

All regional collaborations have a Finance Lead and, as Lancashire is the ACPO lead for this project, it is proposed that Lancashire will be the lead force for grant purposes. This required the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire to sign the Home Office grant agreement and in doing so accept the grant terms and conditions.

Although Lancashire will not be leading in terms of procurement of the new system, all costs of the final solution and the accompanying grant income will be accounted for in the accounts of the PCC for Lancashire. As a consequence an increase to the 2013/14 capital programme will be required although this will be fully funded from grant.

RECOMMENDATION

The Commissioner is asked to:

- (i) Agree to Lancashire being the finance lead for the Communications Capabilities Development Programme;
- (ii) Note that acceptance of the associated Home Office grant will be required and that all costs and income will be reflected in the PCC for Lancashire's accounts;
- (iii) Note that there will be a requirement to increase the capital programme for 2013/14 as a consequence of accepting the grant and that a further paper for decision will be provided once the full details are known.

Decision taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire:

Original decision, as set out in the attached report, approved without amendment (please delete as appropriate)	YES	NO

Original decision required to be amended and decision as detailed below:

The reasons for the amended decision are as detailed below:

Police and Crime Commissioner: Comments

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The PCC is asked to consider any personal / prejudicial interests he may have to disclose in relation to the matter under consideration in accordance with the law, the Nolan Principles and the Code of Conduct.

STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The recommendations are made further to legal advice from the Monitoring Officer and the Section 151 Officer has confirmed that they do not incur unlawful expenditure. They are also compliant with equality legislation.

Signed: Police and Crime Commissioner Date:	Signed: Chief Officer: Date:
--	---

Signed: Chief Constable Date:	Signed: Chief Finance Officer: Date:
--	---

1 Background

- 1.1 The Home Office Communications Capabilities Development Programme recently carried out a review of the use of Communications data (CD) throughout the North West and produced a 'Regional Co-operation Paper' as part of the scope to identify ways to develop regional collaboration. One option of this paper recommended a regional IT solution. The proposal was that all forces move to a single workflow platform, configured to share information and that one force would host the IT platform for the region.
- 1.2 CD is an integral and very valuable part of modern day policing. For some years the use of telephone data, both mobile and landline, has been increasing in relation to the investigation of crime at all levels and is a key tool in ensuring the protection of vulnerable persons. This has now expanded to include the use of the Internet. Social networking alone is fast becoming a popular form of communication for criminals, especially in Sexual Offences against Children. The use of Internet Protocol (IP) data is an effective way of tracing the subjects of these crimes effectively and efficiently. The data owned by numerous companies within the Communications industry is used both evidentially and as an intelligence product.
- 1.3 The obtaining of CD by the police service has been rationalised within legislation, namely the Regulation of Investigative Powers Act (RIPA), and the interface between the industry and the Police Service has been delivered through a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) within each Police force.
- 1.4 At present the six Forces in the North West region deliver these services in different ways and have varying levels of provision. However, the core process from applicant to 'Designated Person' and return is broadly identical, essentially due to legislative requirements and protocols in relation to Police interaction with communications service providers. If the same system was implemented across the region it would take some effort to move to a single business process across the entire region.
- 1.5 Due to the widespread use of communications devices the demands placed on investigators is likely to grow. As a result there is a need to increase the resilience of the teams who deal with CD request to prepare for future demand. For example, there was an 85% increase on IP Subscriber requests from 2011-2012 (Based on Cheshire stats).
- 1.6 A number of Communications Service Providers now have online portals to allow SPoC units to obtain data. There has been a rise in the number of authorisations raised which are mainly to acquire this data. From 2011 to

2012, GMP saw an increase of 22.2% whilst Cheshire saw an increase of 57.4%. This further emphasises the increase in demand on SPoC units and an increased awareness of the use of CD.

2. Current Capability

- 2.1 Currently, the forces in scope for this project submit and manage their CD requests by a variety of different workflow tools, spread sheet management and the use of Communication Service Provider (CSP) portals. This provides varying levels of provision and resilience throughout the region, with no protocol in place to provide mutual aid in times of exceptional demand.
- 2.2 At present only two out of the six forces are working with a RDHI compliant system. The adoption of such a system in all forces will reduce processing effort by SPoCs and allow them to spend more time adding value to investigations, researching new products and delivering vital training to officers dealing with Communications data.
- 2.3 As each force uses a different method and operating system there is currently no sharing of intelligence or information on CD requests throughout the region. This could lead to duplication of requests for data, involving unnecessary cost and time.

3. Proposal

- 3.1 The regional workflow solution and disaster recovery site will be based on a single IT platform hosted by Merseyside Constabulary on behalf of the region. There is an agreement that Forces hosting IT systems on behalf of the region can apply to other Forces for the reimbursement of any reasonable costs for supporting the system.
- 3.2 Lancashire Constabulary will act as the finance lead for the region and hold the Grant Agreement with the Home Office. This will require the Police and Crime Commissioner to accept the Home Office Grant and the associated terms and conditions and all costs and income associated with the project will be reflected in the Commissioner's accounts.
- 3.3 The regional workflow solution will be compliant with version 2.0 of the Retained Data Handover Interface (RDHI) which is an agreed EU standard format for requesting and receiving CD. There are currently two suppliers able to provide this workflow (Charter and GSA Cycomms).

4. Financial Considerations

- 4.1** The financial impact of the proposed solution is still being assessed but early indications are that there are likely to be some small cost savings across the region which will be fully identified in the Outline Business Case.
- 4.2** The full cost of the project will be met from the Home office grant that is being made available. Whilst there are some small staffing resource implications of managing the grant these can be contained within the existing staffing structures.
- 4.3** There will be a requirement for the Commissioner's capital programme for 2013/14 to be increased to reflect the project and the anticipated costs. These costs will however be fully funded through the Home Office grant and therefore there are no additional costs on Lancashire's budgets. Once the full details are known a further report will be presented to the Commissioner at a future decision making session.