

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE DECISION RECORD

To be completed in cases where a decision is required

DECISION OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Date:

Officers present: *Helen King, Chief Finance Officer*

Received in OPCC Date: 11/10/16

OPCC Ref: *EX0007/16*

Title: **Financial Support to Eforensic dept**

Summary of Issue:

The requirement for Eforensic services has increased year on year as the prevalence of digital media devices in society presents investigators with opportunities to seek and secure information and evidence. This is compounded by the bigger capacity of devices to store information and their increased complexity. Offences that are committed by utilising the internet are increasing, particularly the sharing of indecent images of children, which represents the majority of the workload of Eforensics.

There is currently a significant backlog of devices to be examined. This has created delays in service leading to extended investigations and persons remaining on bail for long periods. Although this situation is already not acceptable as it delays justice, it will have a detrimental effect on the Forces implementation of the new legislation in respect of Police bail.

Following investment from the 2016/17 Precept and Budget for this important area, the Eforensic department have recruited additional staff recently and over the last two years. In addition to other specialist staffing, the precept and Budget for 2016/17 included investment in the High Tech Crime Unit (6 S02 grade staff and 3 Grade 5 staff) and also for 4 Digital Media investigators. However all the new to role staff require training and experience before they are competent to fully fulfil the job description. It is anticipated that this will take around 18 months. It is regionally and nationally recognised that it is difficult to recruit trained and experienced Eforensic staff.

Funding has been sourced for this proposal from within the Force Revenue Budget.

Recommendations presented:

To follow the Force's usual procurement practice and award a contract to an external Eforensic provider, up to the value of £350k, to undertake the examination of devices. Initially this will be to remove the backlog of device examinations. It will then be to undertake a proportion of the examinations whilst the new to role staff become trained and gain experience.

Key discussion points at meeting

The challenges in this operational area have been discussed by the previous Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) with the Chief Officer Team on a number of occasions and more recently highlighted with the current Police and Crime Commissioner where the OPCC were supportive of the Force in identifying solutions to progress this challenging operational issue.

The proposal outlined in this Decision Record was discussed at the June Strategic Assurance Board between the PCC and Chief Constable (CC) and a discussion point raised regarding the justification of the request to use the preferred supplier and any Single Source Dispensation that would be required.

This was further discussed at the July Change Board and clarity provided by the Procurement Team who advised that usual procurement rules would apply. This was discussed at the September Strategic Assurance Board and the PCC was advised that the Force wish to source this additional support to support the backlog and workload until staff are trained.

It was resolved that :

OFFICE OF PCC APPROVAL**Chief Finance Officer:**

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

This challenging operational area has been discussed in some detail at the Strategic Assurance Board and the Change Board over time and the Force requested to progress solutions to this important and increasing area. There is a need to address the backlog whilst additional staff resources are trained and this provides that solution.

Furthermore, I have discussed this at length with ACC Kay and Superintendent Cure regarding procurement and have and sought and received advice that usual procurement routes would be followed.

Signature



Name

HELEN KING

Date

12/10/16

Publication Scheme

Decision of Monitoring Officer:

As Monitoring Officer for the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire I have determined that :

It is appropriate to publish this record of decision made by the Police and Crime Commissioner : **Yes**

It is appropriate to publish the contents of the assessment of the decision by either of the senior post holders in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire (i.e. either the Chief Executive or Chief Finance Officer) :
No

It is appropriate to publish details of the decision by the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire : **Yes**

Reasons for any non Publication (referencing appropriate legislation): N/A

Not for publication under para 7 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 - in connection with information relating to any action taken, or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime. The annexment of the decision paperwork contains information and details of police operations.

Signature 

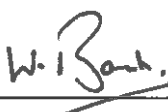
Name **ANGELA PERRY**

Date **12.10.16**

Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicestershire

Having received the advice set out above and reviewed relevant documentation my decision in regard of this matter is:

Supported / ~~Not-Supported~~

Signature 

Date **17.10.16**