

DMPC Decision – PCD 1387

Title: ARV Ballistic Helmet Replacement

Executive Summary:

This decision requests approval for use of net additional funding of £984k for the purchase of 590 Ballistic Helmets for Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) Officers (inclusive of management fee).

This requirement has been caused by the mandate from National Armed Policing that all ARV officers will be CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) trained, with two thirds of on duty ARVs immediately deployable, by the 1st April 2023. This change to the ARV role profile provoked an urgent review of the ballistic head protection provided to ARV officers within the MPS as the current helmet is not compatible with CBRN respirators and cowls.

The MPS has a ballistic helmet available, used by CTSFOs (Counter Terrorist Specialist Firearms Officers), the “Ops Core”. This helmet is suitable for the ARV requirement, and is compatible with the CBRN equipment. Within the MPS, this helmet has not been through sufficient commercial governance to roll out in the numbers needed to deliver CBRN capability to all ARV officers. The Ops Core helmet will be one of the options considered and due to its high cost the funding request is calculated on this product.

To allow the MPS to procure a helmet as close to the required time frame as possible, procurement must take place via the National Uniform Managed Service (NUMS) contract. MOPAC are requested for approval to uplift the DHL contract by sufficient funds to cover the costs of the rollout of a new ARV helmet. The uplift in the contract is compliant with the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

1. Approve expenditure of £822,000 plus DHL management fee (25%) giving a total cost of £1,028,000 for the Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) Ballistic Helmets totaling 590 units as a bulk rollout (replacement) for all ARV trained officers in MO19 and Aviation Policing. The current budget is £44,000 giving a net budget pressure of £984,00 which will be funded from Met Ops staffing underspend (£907,000) and reimbursement by Aviation (£77,000).
2. Approve the supply and delivery of ARV Ballistic helmets for replacement and initial issue to officers, totaling a maximum of 120 units per year for the remaining 3 years on the National Uniform Managed Service (NUMS) framework. This gives a net budget pressure of

£165,000 per year, which will be managed from the MO19 supplies and services budget (£149,000) and reimbursement by Aviation Policing (£16,000).

3. Approve the uplift to the DHL NUMS framework contract by £1,500,000 for the remaining 3 years to cover the costs.

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

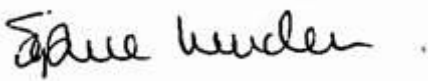
I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Date

17/02/2023



PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. The Weapons, Equipment & Tactics Working Group (WETWG) have since 2017 been reviewing the current Armed Response Vehicle (ARV) helmet. There have been lessons learned from a number of terrorist attacks as well as enhanced MTFA (Marauding Terrorist Firearms Attack) training. Technology has moved on considerably with regards to armour prompting review of AFO (Authorised Firearms Officer) and FLP (Frontline Policing) body armour. The national CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear) requirement has accelerated the need for a new helmet due to compatibility issues with the current product. There is a pressing need to replace the current helmet for all ARV officers in order to deliver the ARV CBRN capability. The helmet is the key issue on the critical path to deliver the CBRN requirement.
- 1.2. The MPS has a ballistic helmet available, used by CTSFOs (Counter Terrorist Specialist Firearms Officers), (~130 units) the "Ops Core". This helmet is suitable for the ARV requirement, and is compatible with the CBRN equipment, as confirmed by Avon, the respirator supplier. It is the helmet which is being procured by British Transport Police, Greater Manchester Police, West Midlands Police and City of London Police for the CBRN rollout. Within the MPS this helmet has not been through sufficient commercial governance to roll out in the numbers needed to deliver CBRN capability to all ARV officers. The "Ops Core" helmet will be one of the options considered and due to its high cost the funding request is calculated on this product. It is proposed that to allow the MPS to procure a helmet as close to the required time frame as possible, procurement must take place via the National Uniform Managed Service (NUMS) contract. The required uplift in the contract would be within the Public Contract Regulations 2015, but MOPAC are requested to approve uplifting the DHL contract by sufficient funds to cover the costs of the rollout of a new ARV helmet.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. There is a mandate set by National Armed Policing to include CBRN in the ARV role profile from 1st April 2023. The current ARV Helmet is not compatible with the CBRN kit and therefore a replacement is required in order to fulfil the national requirement.
- 2.2. The currently supplied helmet made by Galvion is experiencing substantial supply chain delays. By procuring and issuing 590 ARV officers with a new helmet this will allow their old helmets to be re-cycled to other AFOs at a one-off cost saving of £180k.
- 2.3. Aviation Policing have a number of ARV officers who will require the replacement helmet in order to be compliant with the national ARV role profile. This funding will be requested via Third Party Contracts.

- 2.4. There are health and wellbeing, equality and tactical advantages compared with current issued helmet due to advances in technology meaning that the helmet is lighter.
- 2.5. The MPS is not currently aware of any CBRN compatible “full cut” helmets. The national guidance for ARV officer kit lists recommends a “high cut” helmet.
- 2.6. To address conflicting requirements associated with comfort, compatibility with equipment and helmet coverage; MO19 SLT in consultation with SO-AP, have agreed to test a number of helmets including human factors / compatibility testing in order to complete a risk assessment, taking a risk based decision as to whether the wearability and compatibility with equipment outweighs the compromise in coverage. This will be presented to Cmdr Uniformed Ops for NPCC acceptance and sign off.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. The total cost of the roll-out of the new ARV Ballistic Helmets is £1.03m in 2022/23. This is £984k more than the current budget. There will be a contribution of £77k from aviation leaving a pressure of £907k which will be funded from Met Operations Staffing underspend.
- 3.2. The ongoing cost of the new helmets will £209k per annum including management fee, which is £165k per annum more than the current budget. Aviation will be reimbursing £16k per annum. The remaining cost pressure will be managed by MO19 supplies and services budgets. There is an option that the old helmets can be redistributed to other OCUs after refurbishment which will save the MPS £180k in the first year, however, these funds will not be returned to MO19.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. The Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime (“MOPAC”) is a contracting authority as defined in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (“the Regulations”). All awards of public contracts for goods and/or services valued at £213,477 (incl. VAT) or above shall be procured in accordance with the Regulations. This report confirms the value of the proposed contract exceeds this threshold.
- 4.2. The business justification paper confirms the MOPAC’s route to market is through its existing NUMS contract with DHL. The report also confirms the sourcing exercise carried out by DHL is compliant with both the NUMS contract and the Regulations.
- 4.3. Paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (“DMPC”) has delegated authority to approve Business cases for revenue or capital expenditure of £500,000 and above.

- 4.4. The report requests an increase in value of the NUMS contract of £1.5m for the remaining 3 years of the contract against an original contract value of £102m, equating to an increase in value of 1.4%, and is compliant with regulation 72(8).
- 4.5. Paragraph 7.24 of the Scheme provides the Director of Commercial Services has consent for approval of all unforeseen variations and extensions with an original value of £500,000 or above that the DMPC is not required to approve in line with the Scheme of consent. Paragraph 4.14 of the Scheme provides the DMPC reserves the right to call in all variations and extensions to contracts with an original value of £500,000 or above.

5. Commercial Issues

- 5.1. The existing ARV ballistic helmet, is currently sourced via DHL and included in the scope of the NUMS contract. If the MPS are required to meet the national requirement, as close to 1st April 2023 as possible, the commercial recommendation would be to procure via the DHL NUMS contract. It will not be possible to complete a competitive process in this timescale given the long lead times of these products, with the MPS needing to identify the exact product to be purchased. Although commercial preference would be to run a competitive process, either directly or via DHL, this would mean that the MPS would not be able to meet the 1st April 2023 and would be looking at an implementation of December 2023 onwards, depending on the product selected. Both routes to market will be compliant with MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and PCR 2015.
- 5.2. To complete a new roll-out of the helmets, will require an uplift of £1.5m to the current approved NUMS contract (exc. Ballistic body armour, which required an £8.8m uplift to the NUMS contract) of £102m, equating to an increase of 1.4%. This allows sufficient headroom in the contract, pro-actively for MPS uniform and PPE requirements, providing advance notice and justification of increases to the market and MOPAC, without exhausting contract value before its expiry as necessary by a diligent contracting authority.
- 5.3. The long-term procurement of the sourced ARV helmet should remain under the DHL contract, because a competitive longer term process would create a duplication of costs as they cannot have multiple types of helmets in use. In addition, DHL hold and purchase these items for all NUMS forces creating volume leverage, stock-holding and increased resilience of supply chain, managed via Supplier Relationship Management and formal SLA monitoring.

6. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 6.1. The MPS is subject to the requirements and conditions placed on it as a 'State' body to comply with the European Convention of Human Rights and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Both legislative requirements place an obligation on the MPS to process

personal data fairly and lawfully in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.

- 6.2. Under Article 35 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Section 57 of the DPA 2018, Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) become mandatory for organisations with technologies and processes that are likely to result in a high risk to the rights of the data subjects.
- 6.3. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the programme / project meets its compliance requirements.
- 6.4. The project does not use personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

7. Equality Comments

- 7.1. Armed Policing faces challenges in recruiting female officers with the weight of equipment seen as a barrier to recruitment and retention. The proposed ARV helmet is significantly lighter than the current one and therefore we believe that the reduced weight will remove some barriers and ensure armed policing in the capital can be more reflective of this city's communities.
- 7.2. No Implications for the London Anchor Institutions' Charter.

8. Background/supporting papers

- 8.1. Report

Public access to information

Information in this form (Part 1) is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and will be made available on the MOPAC website following approval.

If immediate publication risks compromising the implementation of the decision it can be deferred until a specific date. Deferral periods should be kept to the shortest length strictly necessary.

Part 1 Deferral:

Is the publication of Part 1 of this approval to be deferred? NO

If yes, for what reason:

Until what date:

Part 2 Confidentiality: Only the facts or advice considered as likely to be exempt from disclosure under the FOIA should be in the separate Part 2 form, together with the legal rationale for non-publication.

Is there a **Part 2** form – YES

ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION

Tick to confirm statement (✓)

Financial Advice:

The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.

✓

Legal Advice:

The MPS legal team has been consulted on the proposal.

✓

Equalities Advice:

Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.

✓

Commercial Issues

The proposal is in keeping with the GLA Group Responsible Procurement Policy.

✓

GDPR/Data Privacy

- GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report.
- A DPIA is not required.

✓

Drafting Officer

Craig James has drafted this report in accordance with MOPAC procedures.

✓

Director/Head of Service:

The Chief Finance Officer has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.

✓

Chief Executive Officer

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities 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 Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

Signature

Date 13/02/2023

Manakuchford.

ARV Ballistic Helmet Replacement

MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting 17th January 2023

Report by Chief Inspector May-Robinson on behalf of the Chief of Corporate Services

Part 1 – This section of the report will be published by MOPAC. It is classified as OFFICIAL – PUBLIC

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MOPAC are requested to approve net additional funding of £984k for the purchase of 590 Ballistic Helmets for ARV Officers (inclusive of NUMs management fee). This requirement has been caused by the mandate from National Armed Policing that all ARV officers will be CBRN trained, with two thirds of on duty ARVs immediately deployable, by the 1st April 2023. This change to the ARV role profile provoked an urgent review of the ballistic head protection provided to ARV officers within the MPS as the current helmet is not compatible with CBRN respirators and cowls.

The MPS has a ballistic helmet available, used by CTSFOs, the “Ops Core”. This helmet is suitable for the ARV requirement, and is compatible with the CBRN equipment. Within the MPS, this helmet has not been through sufficient commercial governance to roll out in the numbers needed to deliver CBRN capability to all ARV officers. The Ops Core helmet will be one of the options considered and due to its high cost the funding request is calculated on this product due to its high cost.

To allow us to procure a helmet as close to the required time frame as possible, procurement must take place via NUMS. The uplift in the contract would be within the remit of the Public Contract Regulations 2015, although MOPAC are requested for approval to uplift the DHL contract by sufficient funds to cover the costs of the rollout of a new ARV helmet.

Recommendations

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via the Investment Advisory and Monitoring meeting (IAM), is asked to:

1. Approve funding of £822k plus DHL management fee (25%) at a cost of £1.03m for the ARV Ballistic Helmets totaling 590 units as a bulk rollout (replacement) for all ARV trained officers in MO19 and Aviation Policing less the current budget of £44k. This causes a net budget pressure of £984k which can be funded from Met Ops staffing underspend (£907k) and reimbursement by Aviation (£77k).
2. Approve the supply and delivery of ARV Ballistic helmets for replacement and initial issue to officers, totaling a maximum of 120 units per year for the remaining 3 years on the NUMS framework. This causes a costing net pressure of £165k per year; which will be managed from the MO19 supplies and services budget (£149k) and reimbursement by Aviation Policing (£16k).

3. Approve the uplift to the DHL NUMS framework contract by £1.5m for the remaining 3 years to cover the costs.

Time sensitivity

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 02/02/2023. This is based on the mandate from National Armed Policing and change to the ARV role profile for a CBRN capability, which takes effect on the 1st April 2023, and the fact the current ballistic helmet is not compatible with the CBRN kit.

Non-confidential facts and advice to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

Introduction and background

1. The Weapons, Equipment & Tactics Working Group (WETWG) have since 2017 been reviewing the current ARV helmet. There have been lessons learned from a number of terrorist attacks as well as enhanced MTFA training. Technology has moved on considerably with regards to armour prompting review of AFO and FLP body armour. The national CBRN requirement has accelerated the need for a new helmet due to compatibility issues with the current product. There is a pressing need to replace the current helmet for all ARV officers in order to deliver the ARV CBRN capability. The helmet is the key issue on the critical path to deliver the CBRN requirement.
2. The MPS has a ballistic helmet available, used by CTSFOs, (~130 units) the “Ops Core”. This helmet is suitable for the ARV requirement, and is compatible with the CBRN equipment, as confirmed by Avon, the respirator supplier. It is the helmet which is being procured by BTP, GMP, WMP and CoLP for the CBRN rollout. Within the MPS this helmet has not been through sufficient commercial governance to roll out in the numbers needed to deliver CBRN capability to all ARV officers. The “Ops Core” helmet will be one of the options considered and due to its high cost the funding request is calculated on this product. It is proposed that to allow us to procure a helmet as close to the required time frame as possible, procurement must take place via NUMS. The uplift in the contract would be within the remit of the Public Contract Regulations 2015, although MOPAC are requested for approval to uplift the DHL contract by sufficient funds to cover the costs of the rollout of a new ARV helmet.

Issues for consideration

3. There is a mandate set by National Armed Policing to include CBRN in the ARV role profile from 1st April 2023. The current ARV Helmet is not compatible with the CBRN kit and therefore a replacement is required in order to fulfil the national requirement.
4. The currently supplied helmet made by Galvion is experiencing substantial supply chain delays, by procuring and issuing 590 ARV officers with a new helmet this will allow their old helmets to be re-cycled to other AFOs at a one-off cost saving of £180k.
5. Aviation Policing have a number of ARV officers who will require the replacement helmet in order to be compliant with the national ARV role profile. This funding will be requested via Third Party Contracts.
6. There are health and wellbeing, equality and tactical advantages compared with current issued helmet due to advances in technology meaning that the helmet is lighter.

7. The MPS is not currently aware of any CBRN compatible “full cut” helmets. The national guidance for ARV officer kit lists recommends a “high cut” helmet.
8. To address conflicting requirements associated with comfort, compatibility with equipment and helmet coverage; MO19 SLT in consultation with SO-AP, have agreed to test a number of helmets including human factors / compatibility testing in order to complete a risk assessment, taking a risk based decision as to whether the wearability and compatibility with equipment outweighs the compromise in coverage. This will be presented to Cmdr Uniformed Ops for NPCC acceptance and sign off.

Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2022-251

9. In March 2022, the Mayor of London set out his policing plan for 2022-2025, a key priority was the need for the MPS to increase trust and confidence within communities across London. The MPS launched its STRIDE strategy to tackle these concerns and increase diversity and inclusion across the MPS. Armed Policing faces similar challenges with the weight of equipment seen to have an impact on recruitment and retention of armed officers. The proposed ARV helmet is significantly lighter than the current one and therefore we believe that the reduced weight will remove some barriers and ensure armed policing in the capital can be more reflective of this city’s communities.

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

10. **The existing ARV ballistic helmet, is currently sourced via DHL and included in the scope of the NUMS contract. If the MPS are required to meet the national requirement, as close to 1st April 2023, the commercial recommendation would be to procure via the DHL NUMS contract, and will also be unlikely able to complete a competitive process given the long lead times of these products, with the MPS needing to identify the exact product to be purchased. Although commercial preference would be to run a competitive process, either directly or via DHL, however this would mean that the MPS would not be able to meet the 1st April 2023 and would be looking at an implementation of December 2023 onwards, depending on the product selected. Both routes to market will be compliant with MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and PCR 2015.**
11. **To complete a new roll-out of the helmets, will require an uplift of £1.5m to the current approved NUMS contract (exc. Ballistic body armour, which at the time of writing was still awaiting a decision) of £102m, equating to an increase of 1.4%. This allows sufficient headroom in the contract, pro-actively for MPS uniform and PPE requirements, providing advance notice and justification of increases to the market and MOPAC, without exhausting contract value before its expiry as necessary by a diligent contracting authority.**
12. **The long-term procurement of the sourced ARV helmet should remain under the DHL contract, due to a competitive longer term process would create a duplication of costs as they cannot have multiple types of helmets in use, as well as DHL holding and purchasing these items for all NUMS forces creating volume leverage, stock-holding and increased resilience of supply chain, managed via Supplier Relationship Management and formal**

¹ [Police and crime plan: a safer city for all Londoners | London City Hall](#)

SLA monitoring.

- 13. The total cost of the roll-out of the new ARV Ballistic Helmets is a net cost of £984k in 2022/23, with a contribution of £77k from aviation leaving a pressure of £907k which is proposed to be funded from Met Operations Staffing underspend. The ongoing cost of the new helmets will be a total cost of £165k per annum with aviation reimbursing £16k per annum. The remaining cost pressure will be managed by MO19 supplies and services budgets. There is an option that the old helmets can be redistributed to other OCUs after refurbishment which will save the MPS £180k in the first annum, however, these funds will not be returned to MO19.**

Legal Comments

- 14. The Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime ("MOPAC") is a contracting authority as defined in the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 ("the Regulations"). All awards of public contracts for goods and/or services valued at £213,477 (incl. VAT) or above shall be procured in accordance with the Regulations. This report confirms the value of the proposed contract exceeds this threshold.**
- 15. Section 4 of the BJP confirms the MOPAC's route to market is through its existing NUMS contract with DHL. The report also confirms the sourcing exercise carried out by DHL is compliant with both the NUMS contract and the Regulations.**
- 16. Paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime ("DMPC") has delegated authority to approve Business cases for revenue or capital expenditure of £500,000 and above.**
- 17. Paragraph 7.23 of the Scheme provides that the Director of Commercial Services has consent for the approval of the award of all contracts, with the exception of those called in through the agreed call in procedure. Paragraph 4.14 of the Scheme provides the DMPC reserves the right to call in any MPS proposal to award a contract for £500,000 or above. The request is for approval to amend the existing NUMs contract by £1.5 million for the remaining 3 years of the contract.**
- 18. The report requests an increase in value of the NUMS contract of £1.5m against an original contract value of £102m, equating to an increase in value of 1.4%, and is compliant with regulation 72(8).**
- 19. Paragraph 7.24 of the Scheme provides the Director of Commercial Services has consent for approval of all unforeseen variations and extensions with an original value of £500,000 or above that the DMPC is not required to approve in line with the Scheme of consent.**

Equality Comments

- 20. Armed Policing faces challenges in recruiting female officers with the weight of equipment seen as a barrier to recruitment and retention. The proposed ARV helmet is significantly lighter than the current one and therefore we believe that the reduced weight will remove some barriers and ensure armed policing in the capital can be more reflective of this city's communities.**
- 21. No Implications for the London Anchor Institutions' Charter.**

Privacy Comments

- 22.** The MPS is subject to the requirements and conditions placed on it as a 'State' body to comply with the European Convention of Human Rights and the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018. Both legislative requirements place an obligation on the MPS to process personal data fairly and lawfully in order to safeguard the rights and freedoms of individuals.
- 23.** Under Article 35 of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and Section 57 of the DPA 2018, Data Protection Impact Assessments (DPIA) become mandatory for organisations with technologies and processes that are likely to result in a high risk to the rights of the data subjects.
- 24.** The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the programme / project meets its compliance requirements.
- 25.** The project does not use personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

Real Estate Implications

- 26.** None.

Environmental Implications

- 27.** The MPS Environment Policy and the MPS Environment and Sustainability strategy will be taken into consideration.
- 28.** No Implications for the London Anchor Institutions' Charter.

Background/supporting papers

- 29.** PIB decision Paper – ARV Ballistic Helmet
- 30.** BJP ARV Ballistic Helmet via NUMs – PIB Paper

Report author: Chief Inspector Jack May-Robinson

Part 2 – This section refers to the details of the Part 2 business case which is NOT SUITABLE for MOPAC Publication.

The Government Security Classification marking for Part 2 is:

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE [OPERATIONAL/COMMERCIAL]

Part 2 of the ARV Ballistic Helmet Business Justification Paper is exempt from publication for the following reasons:

- Article 2(2)(c) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011; and
- Section 31(1)(a) and (b) (Law Enforcement) and Section 43(2) (Commercial Interests) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000

The paper will be retained for a minimum of 6 years according to the MPS Records Management Policy.