

DMPC Decision – PCD 1217

Title: Home Office Grant Funding – Operation Yamata

Executive Summary:

This paper seeks approval to accept Home Office grant funding of upto £4,300,000 to support Operation Yamata. Based on the County Lines Operation Orochi methodology this proposal is to address drug supply within London. The grant will enable the creation of five operational teams for 2022/23.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

1. Accept the Home Office funding grant of £4,300,000 to undertake a range of activities to combat intra-London drugs supply networks including high harm gangs, who are responsible for serious violence & homicide in London, thereby reducing violence in the capital.

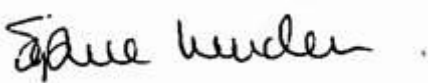
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

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 26/09/2022



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

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. This paper seeks approval to accept grant funding to apply the County Lines Operation Orochi methodology to address intra-London drug supply.

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. The proposal will emulate the business model and methodologies of the MPS County Lines Task Force, Operation Orochi, which has proven highly successful in tackling drug lines exported from London. Known as Operation Yamata, the concept will focus on internal drug supply within the capital. The Home Office grant will enable the creation of five operational Operation Yamata teams for 2022/23.
- 2.2. Analysis of offenders prosecuted for county lines offences by Operation Orochi has demonstrated clear and tangible links between drug supply and the commission of acts of violence. Through relentless pursuit of those engaged in the underpinning criminality of drug supply, Operation Yamata aims to achieve both a reduction and lasting impact on the level of violence offences on the streets of the capital.
- 2.3. The project will work closely with the Home Office Project Adder initiative to achieve its overarching aims of reducing drug-related death, drug-related offending and the prevalence of drug use. The two projects will work in partnership to deliver an holistic approach to the harm caused by the use of controlled drugs by simultaneously bringing to justice those involved in the supply of drugs as well as undertaking intervention work to reduce the demand by diverting drug users away from substance misuse.

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. This paper seeks approval to accept grant funding of upto £4,300,000 to fund the costs of forty-two officers, overtime, fleet, equipment and training costs.
- 3.2. The MPS assure that should additional funding not be forthcoming beyond FY22/23 officers will be redeployed across Frontline Policing in this event, taking with them skills and experience that can be deployed elsewhere in the organisation in tackling MPS priorities.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. This grant will be paid to MOPAC by the Home Office in the exercise of power conferred upon the Secretary of State pursuant to section 169 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and section 48 of the Police Act 1996 to make awards of grant funding.
- 4.2. The proposed acceptance by MOPAC of the grant funding is permitted under Schedule 3, Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.

- 4.3. Paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides that the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) has delegated authority to approve all bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding.

5. Commercial Issues

- 5.1. The MPS assure that any purchases funded by this grant will be procured by way of MOPAC approved compliant procurement routes.

6. GDPR and Data Privacy

- 6.1. MOPAC will adhere to the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018 and ensure that any organisations who are commissioned to do work with or on behalf of MOPAC are fully compliant with the policy and understand their GDPR responsibilities.
- 6.2. The MPS assure that a single Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) has been drafted and signed off by the Data Protection Office and Senior Responsible Officer in August 2022 for both Operation Orochi and Operation Yamata. Current practices are GDPR compliant and any new activity within Operation Orochi will be considered against the DPIA principles to ensure continued compliance.

7. Equality Comments

- 7.1. MOPAC is required to comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires MOPAC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.
- 7.2. The MPS assure that an equality screening exercise was carried out which identified no negative impact towards protected and non-protected characteristic groups. The MPS investigative techniques for Operation Yamata mirror those utilised by Operation Orochi, which has been assessed in 2019 and again in 2022, concluding no requirement for a full EIA. The MPS note that the project will contribute towards the 'Narrow social, economic and health inequalities' pillar of the London Anchor Institutions Charter. The supply of drugs is known to disproportionately impact on deprived sections of society, with Class A addiction being significantly more prevalent in areas with high levels of social deprivation, and lack of opportunity in these areas can also result in young people being drawn into a life of crime.

8. Background/supporting papers

- Appendix 1 MPS Report - Operation Yamata

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

Commercial issues are covered in the body of the report.

✓

GDPR/Data Privacy

GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report .

✓

Drafting Officer

Alex Anderson has drafted this report in accordance with MOPAC procedures.

✓

Director/Head of Service:

The interim MOPAC Chief Finance Officer and Director of Corporate Services 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 04/07/2022

Hanahucherd.

Operation Yamata

MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting 9th June 2022

Report by Det. Supt. Rick Sewart 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

The purpose of this document is to seek approval to accept and utilise Home Office grants totalling £4.3 million to tackle drug supply within London with the objective of reducing serious violence in the capital.

The proposal will emulate the business model and methodologies of the MPS County Lines Task Force, Operation Orochi, which has proven highly successful in tackling drug lines exported from London. Known as Op. Yamata, the concept will instead focus on internal drug supply within the capital. The Home Office grants will enable the creation of five operational Op. Yamata teams for FY 2022/23.

Analysis of offenders prosecuted for county lines offences by Operation Orochi has demonstrated clear and tangible links between drug supply and the commission of acts of violence. Through relentless pursuit of those engaged in the underpinning criminality of drug supply, Op. Yamata aims to achieve both a reduction and lasting impact on the level of violence offences on the streets of the capital.

Recommendations

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

- 1. Accept Home Office funding grants totalling £4.3 million to undertake a range of activities to combat intra-London drugs supply networks including high harm gangs, who are responsible for serious violence & homicide in London, thereby reducing violence in the capital.**

Time sensitivity

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by 23rd June 2022. This is because the available funding is limited to FY22/23 and therefore the decision is time critical to ensure that funding is secured to enable the project to deliver on its objectives.

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

Introduction and background

1. Reducing violence is the key operational priority of the Metropolitan Police Service. There are proven and established links between serious violence and those involved in the supply of controlled drugs. Robberies of rival dealers, kidnap, violence relating to drug debts, and violence to enforce control of drugs markets are all known key violence drivers.
2. Analysis of county line drug supply emanating from London shows that over two thirds of offenders were previously known to police for violence offences, with a similar proportion having previous convictions for the possession of weapons. This is reflective of the wider picture of drug-related violence in the capital.
3. The grant funding will enable the creation of five Op. Yamata operational teams. Building on successes and lessons learnt from tackling county lines, the project will employ similar tactics and methodology to target those involved in drug supply in London.

Issues for consideration

4. The proposal set out in the restricted section of the document will see the creation of five operational teams consisting of a total of 42 police officers.
5. The proposal is fully funded from the Home Office grants for the duration of FY22/23. The funding will be utilised to meet pay, overtime, equipment and training costs.
6. This funding is separate and in addition to a Home Office grant for the continuation of Operation Orochi County Lines (PCD 1216 refers).
7. The pursuance of evidence-based methodology to tackle violence & homicide fuelled by drug supply networks in London presents major benefits to the MPS and Londoners. The funds sought will boost MPS output in combatting violence & homicide linked to drug supply.
8. The project will work closely with the Home Office Project Adder initiative to achieve its overarching aims of reducing drug-related death, drug-related offending and the prevalence of drug use. The two projects will work in partnership to deliver an holistic approach to the harm caused by the use of controlled drugs by simultaneously bringing to justice those involved in the supply of drugs as well as undertaking intervention work to reduce the demand by diverting drug users away from substance misuse.
9. Provision has been made within the project for dedicated support from Project Alpha, with additional support being provided by the Social Media Hub with a specific focus on reducing gang related violence.

Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2022-2025¹

¹ <https://www.london.gov.uk/publications/building-safer-london>

10. Reducing and preventing violence is a key area for action in the Police and Crime Plan. It is widely acknowledged that the illicit supply of drugs is a significant causal factor of violence in urban areas. The work this unit will undertake also directly impacts on the main MPS operational priority of reducing violence by targeting those intent upon serious violent crime associated with drug supply, and the criminality of urban street gangs/Organised Crime Groups within London. Recent analysis of those brought to justice for county line drug supply has shown that two thirds of the cohort were previously known to police for violence offences, and this is likely to also be indicative of those involved in intra-London drug supply. There are also established links between gang activity, drug supply and violence. The project aims to not only reduce drug supply but also remove from the streets those offenders who are predisposed to violence, as well as breaking the cycle of drug-related violence between gangs.
11. It will also contribute to the priority set out in the Plan of protecting people from being exploited or harmed, which in this case manifests itself in the form of young people being enticed into the offending and taking over the premises of vulnerable individuals for the purpose of drug dealing ('cuckooing'). This will be achieved by reducing opportunity for the criminal exploitation of young and/or vulnerable people and provides opportunities for diversion away from involvement in criminality. Young people who are drawn into this activity risk not only being criminalised as a result, but also expose themselves to the risk of violence.

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

12. The setup and 12 month running costs of the project total £4.3m.
13. The unit will be funded by the Home Office grant of £3.3m for 2022/23 only, to include staff and associated running costs. Detailed information is contained in the restricted section of the report.
14. In addition to the 2022/23 grant, an additional £1m of funding was provided by the Home Office in 2021/22 to meet setup costs in order to enable project delivery to commence without delay in 2022/23. This funding was provided by way of grant variation to the county lines grant for 2021/22 and retrospective acceptance of the £1m funding is also required.
15. The grant agreement will provide authority for expenditure against the delivery plan submitted to the Home Office for the Op. Yamata project.
16. There are no ongoing financial commitments to the MPS should additional funding not be forthcoming beyond FY22/23. Staff will be redeployed across Frontline Policing in this event, taking with them skills and experience that can be deployed elsewhere in the organisation in tackling MPS priorities.
17. Any purchases funded by the grant will be in accordance with existing MOPAC approved MPS policies through compliant procurement routes.

Legal Comments

18. No significant legal issues have been identified but will be kept under review.
19. This grant will be paid to MOPAC by the Home Office in the exercise of power conferred

upon the Secretary of State pursuant to section 169 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and section 48 of the Police Act 1996 to make awards of grant funding.

20. The proposed acceptance by MOPAC of the grant funding is permitted under Schedule 3, Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
21. Paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides that the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) has delegated authority to approve all bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding.

Equality Comments

22. To ensure that MPS met the requirements and obligations under the Public Sector Equality Duty, Section 149 Equality Act 2010 an Equality screening exercise was carried out which identified no negative impact towards protected and non-protected characteristic groups negating the need to complete a full EIA. The MPS investigative techniques mirror those utilised by Operation Orochi, which has been assessed in 2019 and again in 2022, concluding no requirement for a full EIA.
23. The project will contribute towards the 'Narrow social, economic and health inequalities' pillar of the London Anchor Institutions Charter. The supply of drugs is known to disproportionately impact on deprived sections of society, with Class A addiction being significantly more prevalent in areas with high levels of social deprivation, and lack of opportunity in these areas can also result in young people being drawn into a life of crime.

Privacy Comments

24. 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.
25. 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.
26. DPIAs support the accountability principle, as they will ensure the MPS complies with the requirements of GDPR and they demonstrate that appropriate measures have been taken to ensure compliance. Current practices are GDPR compliant and any new activity within Operation Orochi will be considered against the DPIA principles to ensure continued compliance.
27. A single DPIA has been drafted for both Orochi and Yamata. This was signed off by the DPO and SRO in August 2022.

Real Estate Implications

28. There are no real estate implications of note.

Environmental Implications

29. There are no identifiable benefits to the London Environment Strategy.

Background/supporting papers

30. This information is contained in the restricted section of the report.

Report author: Det. Supt. Rick Sewart

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]

Part 2 of Op. Yamata is exempt from publication for the following reasons:

- Contains police tactics and other issues for consideration of an operational nature that if published would hinder the criminal justice process and effectiveness of the unit.
- Contains geographic information that may reveal the location of the unit.

Part 2 will be exempt from the Freedom of Information Act under;

Sec 31 Law enforcement

(1) Information which is not exempt information by virtue of section 30 is exempt information if its disclosure under this Act would, or would be likely to, prejudice—

- (a) the prevention or detection of crime,
- (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders,

The paper will remain exempt until 01/04/2025, when it will be reviewed at the end of the current funding period.