

DMPC Decision – PCD 1313

Title: MPS Funding for the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NaBIS) and Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS)

Executive Summary:

This paper seeks approval for the continued membership of the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS), hosted by West Midlands Police, and associated release of funds to cover the period 2022/23 to 2024/25 in respect of NABIS services (£196,896 per annum) and the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) warranties (£81,426.50 per annum). These national collaborations enable the understanding of gun crime in the UK and tackling armed criminality in London. The total 3-year value is £834,967.50. These costs will be met from within existing Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) budgets.

Recommendation:

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is recommended to:

1. Approve the renewal of existing MPS membership via an S22 Collaboration agreement of the NABIS service to cover the period 2022/23 to 2024/25.
2. Approve the funding of MPS membership to national NABIS services at a revenue cost of £834,967.50 for three years, 2022/23 to 2024/25, to be funded from existing revenue budgets.

Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

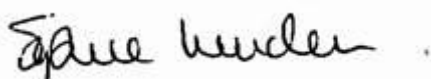
I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Date

23/11/2022



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

1. Introduction and background

- 1.1. NaBIS (National Ballistics Intelligence Service) is the UK Ballistic Intelligence Service. It provides fast time, ballistic intelligence for forces across the UK as well as tactical and strategic intelligence to tackle all aspects of firearms related criminality within the UK. It enables forces to identify how firearms move from location to location within their forces but also across force boundaries

2. Issues for consideration

- 2.1. NaBIS, in collaboration with the national Crime Agency (NCA), co-ordinate and circulate national and regional firearms threat assessments which identify key trends and focus in relation to the use and supply of firearms. NaBIS also commission academic research for improved understanding and provide a more robust and defensible evidence base in relation to gun crime.
- 2.2. Given the current political climate of a rise in national gun crime, threat from international supply and organised crime/terrorism touchpoints, the MPS need to remain within the NaBIS agreement.
- 2.3. The product that NaBIS provides, aligned to the work of individual forces, is critical to the understanding of gun crime in the UK and within each force. It gives a clear understanding of the level of threat posed by firearms that are available to criminals and works with police forces, the National Crime Agency (NCA) and other partners to pro-actively target resources against the greatest threats. The NaBIS intelligence database provides a national picture of firearm usage, seizure and trends
- 2.4. In February 2022, the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) agreed to support the funding cycle for NaBIS over the period 2022/23 to 2024/25. Individual force level funding is now based on an assessment of their levels of gun crime and, therefore, the use of their service. NaBIS offers forensic examination of weapons and ammunitions, providing the necessary evidence to support investigations and to harvest strategic intelligence on the nature and scale of the firearms threat across the UK.
- 2.5. The two elements of the service include
 - £196,896 – annual subscription allowing access to the NABIS database, including analysis, intelligence and performance reporting products. A dedicated national force liaison service to work with forces to improve force, regional and national ability to tackle the Criminal Use of Firearms. A firearms tracing service to establish the origins supply routes and source countries into the UK. Support and training for the National NABIS database for forces to record and research the recovery loss and theft of firearms and ammunition associated intelligence. NPCC Criminal Use of Firearms (CUF) governance coordination and leading on national CUF 4P Plan. Representation of the NABIS model at European and International forums. Dedicated Intelligence resource (1 FTE) to embedded within MPS Met Intelligence. Negotiation and procurement of national IBIS warranty and upgrade agreements.

- £81,426.50 – Annual warranty/licence payment for the IBIS (Integrated Ballistic Imaging system) software

3. Financial Comments

- 3.1. The costs for the previous financial year (21/22) was £100,000 for NaBIS and £77,000 for IBIS. The increase in NaBIS cost is due to a change in the funding formula for each Police Force's contribution. The MPS previously paid a flat fee of £100k agreed in 2008. The new formula means all Police Force's contributions are now based on usage.
- 3.2. The full 3-year value of the MPS's proposed contribution to NABIS and IBIS is £834,967.50. NABIS services £196,896.00 per annum and the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) warranties are £81,426.50 per annum.
- 3.3. These costs will be funded by existing revenue budgets in MPS Forensics.

4. Legal Comments

- 4.1. The MPS assure that MOPAC can enter into a policing body collaboration agreement under s.22A(1) of the Police Act 1996.
- 4.2. Paragraph 4.5 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime ("DMPC") has delegated authority to approve collaboration agreements under s22 Police Act 1996 where the approval of MOPAC is required by that Act.
- 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 business cases for revenue or capital expenditure of £500,000 or above.

5. Commercial Issues

- 5.1. All commercial arrangements with external suppliers are procured by West Midlands Police who host NABIS. Therefore decisions associated with the procurement route(s), ensuring value for money and any contractual terms rest with West Midlands Police.

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 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. 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 this proposal refers to the renewal of an existing function and that there are no equality or diversity issues.

8. Background/supporting papers

- Appendix 1 MPS Report - MPS Funding Contribution to the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NaBIS) and Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS)

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 – NO

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 15/11/2022

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MPS Funding Contribution to the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NaBIS) and Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS)

MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting 6th October 2022

Report by Chris Porter 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

This report concerns MOPAC approval for the renewal of MPS membership of the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS), hosted by West Midlands Police via Section 22 collaboration agreement, and associated release of funds to cover the period 2022/23 to 2024/25 in respect of NABIS services (£196,896.00 per annum) and the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) warranties (£81,426.50 per annum). The total 3-year value is £834,967.50.

Recommendations

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

- 1. Approve the renewal of existing MPS membership via an S22 Collaboration agreement of the NABIS service to cover the period 2022/23 to 2024/25.**
- 2. Approve the funding of MPS membership to national NABIS services at a revenue cost of £834,967.50 for three years, 2022/23 to 2024/25, to be funded from existing revenue budgets.**

Time sensitivity

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by (20/10/2022). This is because the MPS anticipates it will receive the request for funding by the end of October.

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

Introduction and background

- 1. NaBIS (National Ballistics Intelligence Service) is the UK Ballistic Intelligence Service. It provides fast time, ballistic intelligence for forces across the UK as well as tactical and strategic intelligence to tackle all aspects of firearms related criminality within the UK. It enables forces to identify how firearms move from location to location within their forces but also across force boundaries**

2. The product that NaBIS provides, aligned to the work of individual forces, is critical to the understanding of gun crime in the UK and within each force. It gives a clear understanding of the level of threat posed by firearms that are available to criminals and works with police forces, the National Crime Agency (NCA) and other partners to pro-actively target resources against the greatest threats. The NaBIS intelligence database provides a national picture of firearm usage, seizure and trends.
3. Delivery of NABIS services operates through a collaboration agreement under s22A Police Act, which enables the framework in which NaBIS can continue to operate and receive funding from forces. The NaBIS s22 Collaboration Agreement is an agreement to ensure collaborative and co-ordinated policing activity can take place. For this purpose, the parties, supported by the Home Secretary, have agreed to deliver national services for NaBIS, set out in the agreement and associated Memorandum of Understanding. The objectives of the collaboration agreement define the functions and responsibilities of NaBIS and the Memorandum of Understanding delivered by the parties within the agreement.
4. In February 2022, the Chiefs Council agreed to support the funding cycle for NaBIS over the period 2022/23-to 2024/25. Individual force level funding is based on an assessment of their levels of gun crime and, therefore, the use of their service. NaBIS offers forensic examination of weapons and ammunitions, providing the necessary evidence to support investigations and to harvest strategic intelligence on the nature and scale of the firearms threat across the UK.
 - £196,896 – Annual subscription allowing access to the NABIS database, including analysis, intelligence and performance reporting products. A dedicated national force liaison service to work with forces to improve force, regional and national ability to tackle the Criminal Use of Firearms. A firearms tracing service to establish the origins supply routes and source countries into the UK. Support and training for the National NABIS database for forces to record and research the recovery loss and theft of firearms and ammunition associated intelligence. NPCC Criminal Use of Firearms (CUF) governance coordination and leading on national CUF 4P Plan. Representation of the NABIS model at European and International forums. Dedicated Intelligence resource (1 FTE) to embedded within MPS Met Intelligence. Negotiation and procurement of national IBIS warranty and upgrade agreements.
 - £81,426.50 – Annual warranty/licence payment for the IBIS (Integrated Ballistic Imaging system) software.
5. The NaBIS database is the UK's Ballistic Intelligence Service and, crucially, provides a single, national repository for intelligence around firearms crime throughout the UK.
6. For future operational and forensic success in the fight against gun crime, the MPS will continue to rely on strengthened partnerships with regional and national bodies, such as, NaBIS. It is becoming increasingly important for forums to provide information sharing, learning and best practice as well as providing business improvement and governance in relation to the threat.
7. NaBIS, in collaboration with the NCA, co-ordinate and circulate national and regional firearms threat assessments which identify key trends and focus in relation to the use and supply of firearms. NaBIS also commission academic research for improved understanding and provide a more robust and defensible evidence base in relation to gun crime.

8. Given the current political climate of a rise in national gun crime, threat from international supply and organised crime/terrorism touchpoints, the MPS need to remain within the NaBIS agreement.

Issues for consideration

1. **National funding for the NABIS 3 year funding cycle was approved at the Chiefs' Council in January 2022. The MPS is invoiced annually for its contribution to NABIS and IBIS funding. The agreement for funding is supported by the S.22a Collaboration agreement in place with forces and law enforcement agencies issued in July 2018.**
2. **The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) contribution to NABIS is based on a formula agreed at the NPCC Chiefs Council. The financial contribution to NABIS is driven by each police force's expected usage of NABIS, based on the average number of firearms offences for each police force in the last 3-years.**
3. **This annual contribution pays towards access to the NABIS Database and the provision of a dedicated London based analyst, as well as other forensic and intelligence support. In addition, MPS pays a contribution of £81,426.50 for the annual safeguard warranty for the IBIS which is procured collectively by West Midlands Police on behalf of NABIS, MPS and Police Scotland.**

Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2022-251

1. The product that NaBIS provides, aligned to the work of the MPS and Forensic Firearms Unit (FFU) is critical to the understanding of gun crime in the UK and tackling armed criminality within the MPS. NABIS strategic assessment gives a clear understanding of the level of threat posed by firearms that are available to criminals and works with police forces, the National Crime Agency (NCA) and other partners to pro-actively target resources against the greatest threats. The NaBIS intelligence database provides a national picture of firearm usage, seizure and trends. Use of the Integrated Intelligence Ballistic System (IBIS) by MPS FFU system enables national searching of recovered ballistic material in order to link weapons to shooting events or shooting events to each other – establishing linked series of offences. NABIS provide tactical and strategic intelligence to tackle all aspects of firearms related criminality within the UK and this enables forces to identify how firearms move from location to location within their forces but also across force boundaries.

Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments

1. **All commercial arrangements with external suppliers are procured by West Midlands Police who host NABIS. Therefore decisions associated with the procurement route(s), ensuring value for money and any contractual terms rest with West Midlands.**
2. **This approval concerns the MPS's contribution to the costs associated with running NABIS, the value of which is agreed across all police forces as part of the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) funding agreement made in January 2022.**
3. **The full 3-year value of the MPS's contribution to NABIS and IBIS is £834,967.50. NABIS services £196,896.00 per annum and the Integrated Ballistic Identification System (IBIS) warranties are £81,426.50 per annum.**
4. **The costs for the previous financial year (21/22) was £100k for NaBIS and £77k for IBIS. The increase in NaBIS cost is due to a change in the funding formula for each Police Force's contribution. The MPS previously paid a flat fee of £100k agreed in**

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

2008. The new formula means all Police Force's contributions are now based on usage.

5. This will be funded by existing revenue budgets in Forensics.

Legal Comments

1. The MOPAC can enter into a policing body collaboration agreement under s.22A(1) of the Police Act 1996.
2. Paragraph 4.5 of the MOPAC Scheme of Delegation and Consent provides the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime ("DMPC") has delegated authority to approve collaboration agreements under s22 Police Act 1996 where the approval of MOPAC is required by that Act.
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 all requests to bid tender or quote for the provision of services to other organisations (including other GLA functional bodies and local authorities) for £500,000 and above

Equality Comments

1. This document refers to a financial renewal of an existing function and presents no impact therefore mitigating the need for an Equality Impact Assessment.

Privacy Comments

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.
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.
3. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements.
4. 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

1. There are no Real Estate implications.

Environmental Implications

1. The MPS's Environmental Management team has been consulted as part of this project and confirm there is no environmental impact.

Background/supporting papers

1. None.

Report author: Ross Hassard, Contracts Manager, MO4 – Forensic Services.