



MAYOR OF LONDON  
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

## Grant Funding for Multi-Agency Response to Serious Organised Crime (MARSOC) Hub

### MOPAC Investment Advisory & Monitoring meeting [Date]

Report by DS Nathan Burrows on behalf of the Chief People and Resources Officer

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

#### *EXECUTIVE SUMMARY*

This paper seeks approval to accept funding from the Ministry of Justice to enable the continued operation of the Multi-Agency Response to Serious Organised Crime (MARSOC) Hub and the continued work of a dedicated team investigating Corruption within His Majesty's Prison and Probation Service (HMPPS). MARSOC is a HMPPS led multi-agency project led by a national team with 10 hubs to tackle Serious Organised Crime in prisons.

This model will be replicated nationally across ROCUs and the proposed grant will fund One (1) Detective Sergeant, Three (3) Detective Constables (one (1) for MARSOC and two (2) for Corruption)) and an Intelligence development officer (IDO) within the London Region Prison Intelligence Unit (LRPIU).

The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime is asked to approve the acceptance of this Grant.

### Recommendations

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

1. **Approve the acceptance of an offer of funding from the Ministry of Justice (HMPPS) of £382,590 SOC Grant funding to enable the continued work of the London MARSOC hub and the Corruption team for 2023-2024.**
2. **Approve the acceptance of MOJ Grant funding annually up to £500,000 to support the continuance of the London MARSOC Hub and Corruption Team for a further 2 years to March 2026'.**

### Time sensitivity

A decision is required from the Deputy Mayor by December 2023. The current funding agreement is due to expire in December 2023 and, although HMPPS have agreed that they will continue to make the required payments to keep the work of these two teams ongoing, it is important that an official agreement be put in place so that there can be no confusion or discrepancies going forward.

### **Non-confidential facts and advice to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime** **Introduction and background**

1. Corruption and Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) in our prisons impacts the justice system as a whole. When organised criminals are able to continue running their networks from custody offenders' rehabilitation is undermined, public confidence in prison and law enforcement is eroded, drug trade in prisons impacts the ability of staff to carry out their duties and the wider public are at put at risk. With changes in technology, pressures on ageing prisons and an anticipated increase in the prison population, without continued investment and development, we risk the ability to continue to combat Corruption and SOC. An effective partnership between Police, HMPPS and other partner agencies to these ongoing problems will therefore provide much needed support to the criminal justice system and beyond.
2. Effective implementation of a multi-agency model to tackle SOC in prisons provides much needed support to the criminal justice system and beyond. Lifetime Offender Management (LOM) is a multi-agency process that systematically assesses the threat from priority Serious Organised Crime offenders before, during and after custody and uses all available tools, powers and disruptions to prevent and disrupt offending. LOM enables better coordination between policing, HMPPS and other key partners; integrating the sharing of information and intelligence and bringing together skills and capability at the national, regional and local levels. Implementing LOM is part of the government's SOC Strategy and is being achieved through an HMPPS-led multiagency project team now known as the Multi-Agency Response to SOC (MARSOC) Project to distinguish it from existing LOM projects in law enforcement.
3. MARSOC Aim – To Pro-actively disrupt the highest-harm SOC individuals, using the most effective combination of our collective capabilities, information and intelligence, to deliver a 'whole-system' response'.
4. MARSOC Objectives:
  - a. Develop and maintain a list of the highest-harm SOC individuals for lifetime offender management using a single, consistent approach to assessment and prioritisation.
  - b. Co-ordinate activities across multiple agencies to deliver disruptions which make the most of each agency's tools, powers and interventions, based on jointly agreed plans for each individual.
  - c. Share information and intelligence relating to the MARSOC cohort more effectively between partners to deliver a more joined up response.
5. The HMPPS Counter Corruption Policy Framework, seeks to achieve a reduction in staff corruption through four strategic approaches, one of them being to:  
**PURSUE and punish those involved in corruption through disciplinary and criminal justice outcomes.**
6. The joint HMPPS and Police Memorandum of Understanding for Corruption in Prison and Probation, sets out the role Police will play in supporting HMPPS to manage corruption. The Police in conjunction with HMPPS, will support these objectives by providing the legal authority, specialist skills and resources to:
  - a. Identify corruption threats in prisons and probation, including by analysing the relationship between corruption and wider criminality (national security threats, organised crime and extremism; and
  - b. Investigate corrupt staff and those who seek to corrupt staff, supporting prosecution where appropriate.

- c. To further develop and strengthen the ongoing partnership working between HMPPS and Police to investigate
7. As part of the ongoing investment in prison security, HMPPS, supported by the National Police Chiefs Council, are continuing to fund 20 dedicated corruption investigators in the 10 Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU). To be on a reviewed annually.
8. The LRPIU lead on the investigation of HMPPS Corruption and have a dedicated team to respond to this threat. Some less serious offences maybe investigated at BCU.
9. Both the MARSOC and corruption posts will be funded by the HMPPS, specifically 1 DS, 3 DC's and 1 IDO.

#### **Issues for consideration**

10. The MARSOC Model established a hub in each ROCU staffed by HMPPS, police officers and police staff. This HMPPS-led multi-agency project team has been working for over 2 years now, with the central MARSOC team managing the 10 regional hubs. The MARSOC Project Delivery Board, which has senior representation from the Home Office, HMPPS and policing, manages the strategic governance.
11. With respect to the Corruption Unit, HMPPS will continue funding this roles salaries, including on-costs. However, ROCUs are being asked to provide line management, IT equipment, access to vehicles and desk space.
12. MOPAC have previously approved Grant acceptance for the MARSOC and CCU posts, supported with seperate MOUs – PCD1258(MARSOC) & PCD892(CCU) refers
13. Non-staff costs have been minimised by subsuming these posts into the existing MO2 - Prison Intelligence Unit, previously. The original uplift at the inception within the established team, requires no further charges are anticipated regards access to vehicles.
14. Funding is confirmed for one (1) year – 2023/24 but will be reviewed after one (1) year. There is no long term projected time scale for this at this time.
15. Nationally the posts are offered as ROCU secondments, to assist should funding end prematurely. The MPS does not have a ROCU and cannot follow this approach. Should funding cease, MARSOC would be reviewed and potentially re-structured, however due to subsuming these posts, it would be unlikely or unnecessary to redeploy staff.

#### **Contributes to the MOPAC Police & Crime Plan 2022-25<sup>1</sup>**

16. These two teams will improve the police response to corruption and the London SOC threat in our prisons and, in doing so, enable better informed and more effective

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

policing responses to the individuals and groups causing the greatest amount of harm.

17. As part of the continued investment in prison security, the Home Office and HMPPS received funding to resource the national Multi-Agency Response to Serious and Organised Crime (MARSOC) project and corruption units. After an initial agreement lasting until the end of 2023, having had numerous successes both within London and nationally, this funding has been extended for a further one (1) Year(s). The funding is a continuing grant and the MoJ confirm they intend to make payment in arrears on receipt of a quarterly invoice from the MPS. Should funding cease, the officers in the funded posts would either be redeployed within the Prison Intelligence Unit or to other roles within the Operational Command Unit (OCU).

### **Financial, Commercial and Procurement Comments**

18. The eligible expenditure will be recovered from the MoJ supported by a Memorandum of Understanding between MoJ and MOPAC to cover all 5 posts for the MARSOC & CCU team within one combined document.
19. The budget for staff moved across to MARSOC and the Corruption team will be retained within the LRPIU in order to backfill vacated core roles. Experienced candidates are already in place and we do not expect any adverse operational impact.
20. One Detective Sergeant, Three Detective Constables and One Intelligence Development Officer dedicated to the investigation of SOC and Corruption within HMPPS - salary and on-cost provisions total **£382,590 per year**.
21. The MARSOC project is a national project and pre-dates the creation of the London Anchor Institutions Charter, and so does not specifically address the five objectives of the Charter.

### **Professionalism**

22. The MPS vision is to make London the safest global city by being best crime-fighters, by any measure, earning the trust and confidence of every community and having pride in the quality and efficiency of our service so people love, respect and are proud of London's Met. In order to achieve this we have our MET values, they're what we, through consultation in and outside the organisation, have judged are most important to us and reflect the special nature and demands of policing London. One of these is High Standards. Supported by a Code of Ethics that provides the foundation for the standards and behaviours expected across all police forces in England and Wales. We are responsible for making sure that all Met officers and staff adhere to professional standards. We are also responsible for adopting a transparent approach to professional standards to give the public confidence that we respond to their complaints and effectively deal with poor behaviour by our officers and staff. This is a time of great change in the MPS with a focus on improving our culture and confidence within our communities. The MARSOC and corruption teams will be fully immersed in this journey, they will never be remote, isolated or distanced from this critical work.
23. The MARSOC and Corruption teams work within an MPS building and remain fully under MPS line management. The team will complete all mandatory training, relevant briefing and discussion regards professional standards. Working closely with

a wide and diverse range of organisations/agencies is always challenging. However the team are aware that our duty to maintain professional standards, to report wrongdoing and challenge inappropriate behaviour is universal. Making these interventions and taking positive action demonstrate our commitment to the other core Met Values of Integrity and Courage.

### **Legal Comments**

24. MOPAC acceptance of this Grant is permitted under Schedule 3 Paragraph 7 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, whereby MOPAC may do anything which is calculated to facilitate, or is conducive or incidental to, the exercise of the functions of the Office which includes entering into contracts and other agreements (whether legally binding or not).
25. 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.
26. MOPAC has an obligation to publish all agreements valued at £10,000 or more pursuant to Schedule 1, Paragraph 3(g) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) (Amendment) Order 2011.

### **Equality Comments**

27. The initial funding for the London MARSOC and Corruption teams provided Four police officer posts (One (1) Detective Sergeant and Three (3) Detective Constables), all of which were filled from existing staffing within the MPS Prison Intelligence Unit and a Band E, Intelligence Development Officer post which was filled once the initial funding was confirmed.
28. Building the London MARSOC hub and associated protocols alongside the corruption team is intended as a long-term investment. An Equality Impact Assessment has been conducted and will be further developed as and when parameters change. No negative impact has been identified to any individual and/or group safeguarded by a protected characteristic and to those who are not.

### **Privacy Comments**

29. 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.
30. 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.
31. The Information Assurance and Information Rights units within MPS will be consulted at all stages to ensure the project meets its compliance requirements.
32. Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) – A Met DPIA has also been completed. The formal agreements for data sharing within the MARSOC project are all in place, having been signed off by all partner agencies. The processes governing the lawful

exchange of information between the key partners, police and HMPPS, are well established, having been subject to rigorous judicial scrutiny and subject to IPCO inspection. HMPPS through their Operational Partnerships Team have finalised an information sharing MoU between HMPPS and law enforcement which has been signed off by NPCC. The Prison Intelligence Unit currently lead on the reactive investigation of corruption in our prisons. This is core business and follows all MPS and National guidelines regards the reactive and proactive investigation of crime. These newly funded posts will fall under direct line management of the current MPS a team, all control measures, policy and procedures are already in place.

### **Real Estate Implications**

33. Both the MARSOC and Corruption teams work out of Cobalt Square which is part way through a five-year refurbishment plan. The multiagency nature of MARSOC increases the importance of careful advanced planning to accommodate this. Temporary office moves maybe required to facilitate these works, but all the posts are factored into any advanced planning.

### **Environmental Implications**

34. There are no environmental implications

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