

DMPC Decision – PCD 1857

Title: Vehicle Recovery and Examination Services (VRES) Contract and Extension of Vehicle Disposal Contract

Executive Summary:

This paper seeks approval to initiate procurement activity for the replacement of the Vehicle Recovery Contract, managed by VRES and, approval to extend the unforeseen extension of an existing call off contract for the provision of Vehicle Disposals for a period of up to 6 months (Jul 2025 to Dec 2025).

Recommendation:

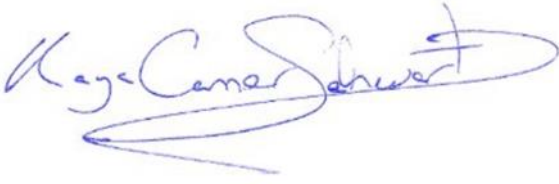
The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, via the Investment Advisory and Monitoring meeting (IAM), is recommended to:

1. Approve initiation of procurement for the provision of Vehicle Recovery Services with a contract value of £25m for an initial contract duration of 36 months with the option to extend for a period of 24 months (3+1+1).
2. Approve the unforeseen extension of an existing call off contract for the provision of Vehicle Disposals for a period of up to 6 months commencing (July 2025 to December 2025).
3. Approve delegated authority to award contracts within the award value threshold (£25m) to the Director of Commercial Services.

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.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kaye Cameron Stewart". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Signature

Date 04/06/2025

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

1. Introduction and background.

- 1.1. The Vehicle Recovery and Examination Service (VRES) is a Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) exhibit and secondary front line crime fighting service, providing a vehicle recovery, removal, examination, storage and disposal service, processing over c.35,000 vehicles a year, including those from collisions, serious and organised crime that require forensic examinations or those that are seized under police powers for no insurance or being driven without a licence. Operating out of forensic equipped car pounds at Perivale and Charlton.
- 1.2. While cars make up the majority of these vehicles, motorcycles, light vans, and heavy goods vehicles are also recovered through this service. Vehicles are recovered in a variety of conditions (roadworthy and not roadworthy), all ages, all propulsion types, and with a wide range of values.
- 1.3. The existing Vehicle Disposals Contract originates from an awarded MPS framework that expired in March 2019. Whilst the framework has expired the validity of the Call Off Contract remains as a legal document between contracting parties. The existing Call Off Contract expires 30th June 2025. Seized vehicles that are not collected from police car pounds, are processed for disposal. VRES also dispose of MPS Police Fleet vehicles using the same supplier.
- 1.4. MOPAC approved an update to PCD 612 (approval to initiate procurement and delegated authority to award a contract) in relation to contract duration. Originating from the re-procurement from 48 months to 60 months incorporating 1x12 month extension after 48 months (4+1) and the unforeseen extension of an existing call off contract for a period of up to 12 months from July 2024 to June 2025 – See PCD 1661.

2. Issues for consideration.

- 2.1. The New Met for London (NMfL) mission of ‘more trust, less crime and high standards’ underpins the vision to be the most trusted police service in the world. VRES is an essential frontline component NMfL delivery plan, fulfilling legal and policing obligations by providing crucial community and crime-fighting support, particularly in denying criminals access to the use of roads.
- 2.2. The vehicle recovery provision ensures compliance with key legislation, including the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE), Road Traffic Act 1988 & Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984. VRES also support forensic investigations, evidence storage, investigating terrorism-related vehicle crime, and large-scale incident response. Of these c13,000 are vehicles that are recovered as PACE exhibits and c22,000 are seized or impounded for non-crime offences.
- 2.3. The current VRES contract that was awarded on 1st of April 2022 expired on the 31 March 2025 however, a complaint 24-month extension is available. This allows the MPS to utilise the first extension (12 months), extending the contract to the 31st of March 2026.

- 2.4. The replacement contract for Vehicle Recovery is necessary to enable the MPS to fulfil their legal and policing obligations by providing crucial community and crime-fighting support, particularly in denying criminals access to the use of roads. The service provision also supports forensic investigations, evidence storage, investigating terrorism-related vehicle crime, and large-scale incident response.
- 2.5. The rise of Electric Vehicles (EV's) has introduced several challenges to the vehicle recovery industry, affecting operational procedures, training, costs, and technology adoption. The weight of EV's are significantly higher than traditional vehicles due to their large batteries and any damaged EV's present additional fire risks. Therefore, EV roadside recovery operators need to ensure they can support the additional weight of batteries when recovering vehicles and are equipped with thermal monitoring and fire suppression capability.
- 2.6. The completion of procurement is estimated to be July/Aug 2025; however, time must also be allocated for vetting and smooth transition of services. So, the extension to the existing Call Off Contract will provide the MPS the required time to complete the procurement process. This will safeguard the MPS of a break in contract and ensure Vehicle Disposals services continue whilst the procurement is fully concluded, and the replacement Supplier is fully embedded
- 2.7. The proposed 6-month extension for the supply of Vehicle Disposal Services will be concluded on the same terms as the existing arrangement and, it will ensure that;
- Service continuity of MPS operational activity for vehicle recovery, examination and storage.
 - The MPS can maintain a fit for purpose and operationally effective disposal function.
 - Deliver value for money obtained for the MPS through support from supplier's expertise.
 - Meet evolving MPS requirements and improve MPS service experience.
 - MPS maintains a c£7m per annum (net) income from the disposal of vehicles.

3. Financial Comments.

- 3.1. The estimated value of the re-procurement is £25m over the potential 5- year term of the contract. Services will be procured as part of VRES business as usual projects.
- 3.2. The Vehicle Disposal Contract extension is a concession contract and that there is no cost to the MPS. Contractor's costs are funded by the buyers of the vehicles.

4. Legal Comments.

- 4.1. Legal implications are reserved for Part 2 (non-publishable).

5. Commercial Issues.

- 5.1. The re-procurement of the Vehicle Recovery contract shall be procured via the newly implemented Procurement Contract Regulations 2024 (PCR 2024) formed under the Procurement Act 2023.
- 5.2. The MPS shall use the Competitive Flexible procedure as a basis for competition and award unless significant market changes affect's the chosen procedure. Currently, no existing frameworks exist for Vehicle Recovery Services, however the MPS will explore if future frameworks are in the pipeline and will seek any collaborative opportunities with other blue light users.

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 UKGDPR responsibilities.
- 6.2. The MPS assure that there are no identified privacy implications. The information Assurance and Information Rights Units within the Met will be consulted when necessary to ensure that compliance requirements are met.

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. This business case has undergone initial equality screening. Due regard has been taken to the Equality Act's Public Sector Equality Duty under Sec 149 of the Equality Act 2010.
- 7.3. The procurement process for each requirement will assess the suitability of suppliers for working with the public sector. Real consideration will be taken to assess equality impact caused by each contract including effective engagement and analysing relevant equality information. As a result, no positive or negative impact has been identified to any individual and/or group safeguarded by a protected characteristic and to those who are not.

8. Background/supporting papers.

- 8.1. **Appendix 1** - Vehicle Recovery & Examination Services (VRES) Vehicle Recovery Contract business justification paper - exempt from publication.

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 [COMMERCIAL]

Part 2 of Vehicle Recovery & Examination Services (VRES) Vehicle Recovery Contract

BJP is exempt from publication for the following reasons:

- Exempt under Article 2(2)(a) of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information)

Order 2011 (Data Protection Section 43 - Trade Secrets and Prejudice to Commercial Interests).

The paper will cease to be exempt upon completion of the contract. This is because the information is commercially sensitive and could compromise future procurement activity.

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? YES/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	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
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 Stephen Kalyango has drafted this report in accordance with MOPAC procedures.	✓
Director/Head of Service: The 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

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Date 02/06/2025