

**DMPC Decision – PCD 2027**

**Title: Home Office Grant funding National Police Chiefs' Council Serious and Organised Crime 2025/26**

**Executive Summary:**

This paper seeks approval for the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to accept Home Office grant funding of up to £12.50m in 2025/26 to support delivery of the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) Portfolio objectives, specifically the National Network of Covert Child Sexual Abuse Operation.

**Recommendation:**

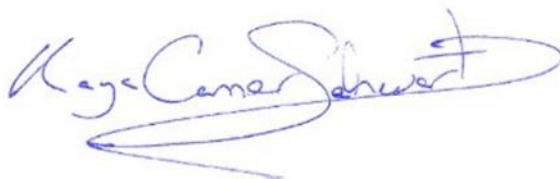
The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC) is recommended to:

1. Approve MOPAC entering into a grant agreement with the Home Office, on behalf of the NPCC, for the National Network of Covert Child Sexual Abuse Operation to receive up to £12.50m in funding for 2025/26, ensuring delivery of the agreed Grant Award deliverables.
2. Approve the distribution of the grant to the delivery partners, specifically the Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU), as required to support this purpose.

**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 08/04/2026**

## **PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE DMPC.**

### **1. Introduction and background**

1.1. The National Network of Covert Child Sexual Abuse Operation has been funded by the Home Office Tackling Child Sexual Abuse Unit since 2020. The network consistently arrests in the region of 1600 subjects per year and safeguards 1500 children per year. The network features teams managed within each regional organised crime unit. In 2025, the network achieved 1152 charges and 1408 years of sentencing.

### **2. Issues for consideration**

2.1. The threat of online child sexual abuse has significantly escalated, as evidenced by recent data from the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and the UK's National Crime Agency (NCA). In 2024, NCMEC's CyberTipline received over 20 million reports of suspected Child Sexual Abuse Material (CSAM), a 20% increase since 2021. However, the urgency of reports escalated even more sharply, with a 140% increase in cases flagged for immediate law enforcement action. This indicates a growing prevalence of more severe or imminent threats to children. Emerging challenges include the increased use of encryption and anonymous platforms, which hinder law enforcement's ability to act swiftly and effectively.

2.2. The NCA's assessment for 2025 highlights similar trends, noting a rise in both the production and distribution of CSAM. The UK also faces an increase in self-generated CSAM, particularly children coerced through online platforms. The use of end-to-end encryption and advanced anonymisation tools, like the dark web, complicates detection and intervention. Artificial Intelligence (AI) generated by CSAM is a new and alarming trend, with technology enabling the creation of abusive material that mimics real victims, further challenging current response mechanisms.

2.3. The policing costs associated with the Regional Organised Crime Unit Undercover Online (ROCU UCOL) Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) operations will be funded by the Home Office grant with no permanent revenue cost to policing. This will be via a grant from the Home Office which is sufficient to cover the costs of the agreed deliverables.

### **3. Financial Comments**

3.1. The Home Office has offered grant funding for 2025/26 of up to £12.50m in relation to the following:

- £11.95m ROCU UCOL Core capabilities
- £0.55m Project Dorothy Secure File Transfer System

3.2. The NPCC will transfer the funds to all ROCUs.

3.3. If any additional costs arise that are not covered by the Home Office grant, NPCC confirms that these will be funded from within the existing SOC portfolio budget and/or reserves

3.4. NPCC has considered the forecasted costs and is confident that the £12.50m is appropriate to meet the agreed deliverables within the grant award.

#### **4. Legal Comments**

4.1. The grant will be paid to the MOPAC, as the host organisation for the National Police Chiefs' Council, in exercise of the power conferred upon the Secretary of State for the Home Department under Section 48 of the Police Act 1996 and Section 169 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

4.2. Under paragraph 4.8 of the MOPAC Scheme of Consent and Delegation the DMPC has delegated authority to approve "Bids for grant funding made and all offers made of grant funding; and/or where appropriate a strategy for grant giving".

4.3. The grant agreement will be published under the Elected Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011.

#### **5. GDPR and Data Privacy**

5.1. 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.

5.2. Receipt of Home Office funding does not involve the use of personally identifiable data of members of the public, so there are no GDPR issues to be considered.

#### **6. Equality Comments**

6.1. 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.

6.2. This award has undergone an initial equality screening. Due regard has been given to the Equality Act's Public Sector Equality Duty. Consideration has been made to assess equality impact from the proposed business changes. No negative impact has been identified for any individual or group safeguarded by a protected characteristic or otherwise.

6.3. Further reviews will be conducted, and if any new equality impact is identified, a full Equality Impact Assessment will be initiated.

#### **7. Background/supporting papers**

7.1. NPCC Serious and Organised Crime Portfolio Home Office Grant award 2025/26.

**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

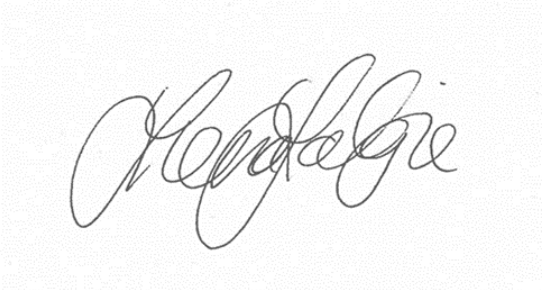
If yes, for what reason: **Exempt from publication due to Covert Operations and Police Tactics.**

Until what date: **Indefinitely**

**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.

<b>ORIGINATING OFFICER DECLARATION</b>	<i>Tick to confirm statement (✓)</i>
<b>Head of Unit:</b> The 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.	✓
<b>Legal Advice:</b> The MPS legal team has been consulted on the proposal.	✓
<b>Equalities Advice:</b> Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
<b>Commercial Issues</b> Commercial issues are not applicable.	✓
<b>GDPR/Data Privacy</b> GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
<b>Drafting Officer</b> Stephen Kalyango has drafted this report in accordance with MOPAC procedures.	✓
<b>Director/Head of Service:</b> Chief Finance Officer, Director of Corporate Services has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓

<b>Chief Executive Officer</b>	
<p>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.</p>	
	
<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date 07/04/2026</b>