



**METROPOLITAN
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Specialist Crime and Operations

Appendix B

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Specialist Crime and Operations

Joanne McCartney AM
London Police and Crime Committee
London Assembly
City Hall
The Queen's Walk
London
SE1 2AA

Room 1101
New Scotland Yard
10 Broadway
London
SW1H 0BG
Telephone:
Facsimile:
Email: Mark.Rowley@met.police.uk
www.met.police.uk
Your ref: 16/2013
Our ref:
24th July 2013

Dear Joanne

Thank you for your letter dated 18th June 2013.

In response to your questions, I can reassure you that the remit of Operation Nexus has not changed since its inception and I hope this letter will address your concerns. It may be useful in the first instance to briefly restate why it was necessary to create Operation Nexus.

'Operation Nexus' is the pan-MPS operation for increasing impact against criminal offenders who are foreign nationals. It is based on the aim that all criminals, wherever they are from (i.e. UK, EU or world wide) require the same quality and effectiveness of policing. Currently for a range of obvious reasons we are less effective at tackling FNO's than indigenous criminals. It was established (centred upon our lack of knowledge of their offending history, intelligence and our ability identify them via biometrics) by Management Board in June 2012, and I am the Senior Responsible Officer.

In a wider context, 'Operation Nexus' is seen as being at the forefront of shaping national delivery against offenders who are foreign nationals and has recently been the subject of direct strategic briefings to the Home Secretary, Immigration Minister, National Security Council, national ACPO and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime.

It has been firmly established that c.28% of all MPS prisoners arrested for crime, ranging from low level street offences to the most serious of crimes, are now foreign nationals. On several MPS Boroughs this figure is in excess of c.40% of all prisoners. These figures are simply reflective of the international population of London.

It should be borne in mind that 'Operation Nexus' is not solely an MPS strategic initiative. It is a collaborative exercise, both in terms of shared aims and dedicated staffing/resource input, with a number of UK and international agencies including; Home Office Immigration Enforcement (formerly UKBA), SOCA/NCA, national ACPO, ACRO, Europol and Interpol, the European Union and several key overseas police forces. As such it is inter-dependent on others support and delivery.

In response to your specific questions, I will deal with each individually.

1. Confirmation of whether or not 'targets' have been put in place for the number of foreign nationals whose details will be passed to the Border Agency for deportation. If so, how this target was determined and an assessment of the impact of this target.

There are two joint headline performance indicators which are the following:

- To achieve a detained with view to remove rate of 200/month offenders who are foreign nationals
- To make 5200 (100/week) high harm offender referrals to UKBA for subsequent action

Based on the London volume of offenders who are foreign nationals the target is considered fair and proportionate. They were agreed by the MPS Management Board and the Home Office Immigration Chief Executive and were informed by pilot activity in 2012 that assessed the potential for identifying foreign nationals who meet the criteria for referral to the Home Office Immigration Enforcement team.

Here are a few headline performance statistics to give you an indication of the impact of Operation Nexus since June 2012 up to June 2013.

- 207k prisoners have passed through MPS custody since inception
- 58k of these are Foreign Nationals (28%)
- 977 were immediately detained by Home Office Immigration Enforcement (HOIE)
- 903 were given reporting conditions by HOIE in order to manage

It should be stressed that there are natural safeguards in the process based on fixed criteria in HOIE on whom their powers can be used against.

The other main driver for Operation Nexus is to identify high harm offenders who are foreign nationals. By definition, this will include subjects involved in serious violence (including sex offending), prolific gang members, or those offenders who carry firearms or other weapons. Such subjects are a priority for intervention by Operation Nexus.

To date, 591 High Harm subjects have been referred to the HOIE for intervention opportunities at a rate of 30 referrals per week. The aspiration is to increase the number of high harm referrals to 100 per week by December.

Here are some statistics to highlight the results we have achieved so far.

- 37 removed from the UK
- 74 on restrictive reporting conditions
- 83 in custody or monitored

How many officers and how many UKBA staff are involved in this Operation and whether this has changed over the lifetime of the Operation.

To achieve the aims of Operation Nexus, there are currently 50 MPS officers dedicated to this operation. However, in light of the volume and context set out above, there are plans for a resourcing uplift to increase the number of officers to 95. HOIE have also centralised their response to include a team dedicated to Operation Nexus.

Whether UKBA staff remain embedded in custody suites or whether they are now working in the field with MPS officers.

HOIE Immigration Officers continue to be embedded within custody suites to develop a closer working relationship with local policing. MPS and HOIE staff also makes up the Joint Operations Centre based in Croydon, which seeks to co-ordinate resources and activity to support our shared goals.

Whether the scope of the Operation has been widened beyond the original aim to focus on high risk people to include lower-level criminality. Whether the Operation has extended beyond its initial remit of working in custody suites to include 'targeting' in the community.

I thought I would answer two of your questions in this section as they are intrinsically linked.

The scope of the operation has never been widened. It does not focus on lower level criminality, but clearly if an offender is identified as a foreign national with illegal UK status via the existing processes within our custody suites, we will inform HOIE who will intervene in accordance with their policy.

Whether any further community engagement and consultation has taken place since the Operation was introduced

We have received overwhelming positive feedback from our engagement so far. Presentations have already been delivered to the Refugee and Migrant Forum of East London (RAMFEL), LSMP and The Runnymede Trust as well as attendance at individual community meetings. Two separate processes of scoping community tension have taken place, led by Diversity Directorate staff and the Communities Together Strategic Engagement Team (CTSET). In addition a Community Reference Group (CRG) was established at the start of Operation Nexus who have met in November, December and June this year. Detective Superintendent Stuart Dark is providing an update to the London Strategic Migration Partnership (LSMP) on 18/0713.

Further to the CRG meeting on Wednesday 10th July I am able to report that the comments made by RAMFEL were misinformed as they were not in receipt of the full facts. This was as a response to media coverage regarding the case of Farquarhson who was illegally in UK from 1998. He was arrested, charged but not convicted for five rapes and Domestic Violence, detained by HOIE under Immigration Powers for 16 months before being removed from the UK. RAMFEL were assured there is no targeting of low level offending.

The role of the MPS in providing evidence to UKBA and tribunals

If a foreign national offender is identified as a high harm subject as defined earlier the case will be allocated to an Operation Nexus Detective. Their main responsibilities are the following:

- To implement control measures on the individual at the earliest opportunity. This may include referring to HOIE for immigration detention or reporting conditions.
- Work closely in support of HOIE staff to provide any relevant material to assist in immigration and/or removal procedures
- Present the MPS information to any subsequent Immigration and Asylum Chamber hearing.

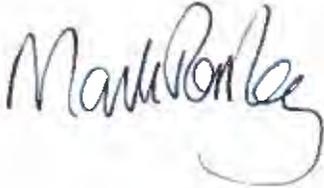
This will usually include details of the individual's criminal history and any other relevant intelligence. I want to make it clear that once a case has been referred to the HOIE they are the lead agency and the MPS will support them to achieve our common goal of detaining and removing high harm subjects. We have found that the MPS has information that prevents criminals appearing in front of tribunals misleading them on the true scale of their criminal activity

Whether the impact assessment has been updated since the original Operation was introduced and if so, please provide a copy.

The CRG are in the process of providing updated feedback for inclusion in a refreshed EIA. Once this process has been completed we will provide you with an updated EIA.

I hope I have been able to illustrate to you the continued effort by Operation Nexus to reduce the impact of criminal offending by foreign nationals and that the scope has not been widened.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Rowley', written in a cursive style.

Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley