

Have you got what it takes?

The Police ICT Company



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About the Company

The Police ICT Company Ltd ('the Company') has been established to provide vital support to the police service and provide police and crime commissioners (PCCs) with the tools to achieve value for money and operational effectiveness.

The objectives for the Company are to deliver:

1. better value to the PCCs and their forces for their ICT spend;
2. greater innovation in police ICT, providing officers with the best new technologies at the best price;
3. freedom for chief officers to deliver operational policing rather than managing ICT; and
4. services and products that support forces and other customers in their drive for interoperability.

The Company is currently jointly owned by the Association of Police Authorities (APA) and the Home Office; ownership will be handed over to PCCs at the appropriate time.

Background

Current ICT delivery

- **Technology and information are crucial for police officers in their fight against crime. In 2010/11 £1.1bn was spent on police ICT, of which £250m was spent on staff supporting the complex arrangements in place. The average cost per police employee for the provision of ICT in 2010/11 was estimated to be £5,700 a year.**
- **As well as being costly, the existing arrangements for police ICT are complex, with each force historically owning and operating its own ICT. The arrangements of old have created an infrastructure that is out of date and expensive to run – there are over 2,000 systems, and a 2011/12 survey indicated that these were supported by approximately 4,000 staff.**
- **Local and national police systems were designed to meet specific business needs, but, apart from some notable exceptions (for example, the Police National Database, delivered in 2011), they are rarely integrated, resulting in a latticework of costly interfaces, reducing the opportunity to promote flexible working within and across forces.**

How the Company will help

The customers for the Company will be the PCCs of England and Wales, the Scottish forces, the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), British Transport Police and other law enforcement organisations, such as the National Crime Agency.

The Company will offer strategic ICT advice and services, including the procurement, implementation and management of ICT solutions and associated business change, reducing costs and improving outcomes. The Company will retain and build on the skills and knowledge of the policing marketplace to offer PCCs and their forces unrivalled expertise in ICT innovation, procurement and implementation. Also, by seeing the 'bigger picture' the Company will enable collaboration at a local, regional and national level. Whilst the services are primarily for police forces, the longer-term vision is for the Company to provide services across the criminal justice system.

The Company can be seen as an extension of force ICT procurement and strategy departments. PCCs will be able to engage with the Company in a number of ways, depending on the individual business needs of their force. The structure of the Company's ownership means that PCCs will not have to procure its services, but will be able to commission it to provide the services they need.

The Company will be responsible for managing the contracts of some existing national services and for delivery of some national projects. These may include service management for the Automated Number Plate Recognition network, the Police National Database, and the central national database for holding, searching and comparing biometric information (IDENT1). When the contracts for these services come to an end the Company will procure the replacements to ensure the police service maintains its critical capabilities. The Company will also provide some services direct to forces on demand.

The cost of the current services in scope for the Company sits at around £75m a year; the Company is now working to increase the transparency of the current charging model. PCCs will be able to see exactly what they are paying for, which will increase their control over their ICT budgets. The Company will drive up efficiencies in these national contracts on behalf of PCCs.

More information

The Company will be owned by PCCs (once elected) and their equivalents for other forces and law enforcement bodies. The Home Office will also be an owner. This structure allows the Company to be solely driven by the needs of the police and be responsive to their requirements, as well as enabling influence and control over its cost.

An ownership stake in the Company creates a mutual benefit: forces will be able to use the Company's services without undertaking an expensive and time-consuming procurement competition.

Once PCCs are elected, engagement will begin to secure the long-term ownership group. The owners will then make the crucial decisions, such as how the Company will be governed, who the senior team is and where it will be located.

After this point the staff and services of the ready-to-use Company team can be transferred to the new Company.

In the meantime, no permanent key decisions regarding the strategic direction of the Company will be made. A Company team has been established within the Home Office to

- **build the business;**
- **establish the Company as a viable going concern; and**
- **build the trust and confidence of forces and PCCs as customers and owners.**

The role of the PCC

Ensuring the efficiency and effectiveness of their police force is the responsibility of PCCs, and the Police ICT Company will provide PCCs with a means to improve innovation and value for money in the ICT services their force receives.

The Police ICT Company Ltd has been legally incorporated at Companies House. Being a 'member' or owner of the Company, which is limited by guarantee, gives PCCs the right to make the key decisions, such as:

- **appointing the Board;**
- **agreeing the business plan;**
- **appointing the CEO and senior management team, and setting their terms and conditions;**
- **deciding on the Company location;**
- **making operational decisions.**

No start-up capital is required and PCCs will not take on the contingent liabilities of the services – liability is capped at £1.

The Company is currently being guided in its development by representatives of the policing community in anticipation of PCCs taking on ownership. PCCs will take the key decisions once they take ownership.

To find out more, please email policeICTprogramme@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk or visit www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-it.