

FIND Strategy Board

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| Protective Marking | Not Protectively Marked |
| Suitable for publication Scheme (Y/N) | Yes, |
| Title & Version | FIND Strategy Board Minutes – December 18th |
| Purpose | Record of meeting |
| Author & Warrant/Pay No | Caroline Goryll, Home Office |
| Date Created | 26/03/19 |
| Date Review | 26/03/24 |

Open Minutes of Meeting 18th December 2018 11.00-13.30 MPS, Lambeth Road

Present:

CORE MEMBERS

| ORGANISATION | MEMBER |
|---|--|
| NPCC | ACC Ben Snuggs (BS) |
| Home Office, representing the Home Secretary | Carl Jennings (CJ) |
| Association of Police and Crime Commissioners | Martin Underhill (MH) (teleconferencing) Rachel Goodwin (RG) (teleconferencing) |

APPOINTED MEMBERS (as set out in the Governance Rules)

| ORGANISATION | MEMBER |
|--|---|
| Commissioner of the Retention & Use of Biometric material representative | Lucy Bradshaw-Murrow (LBM) Paul Wiles (PW) |
| Forensic Science Regulator | Gillian Tully (GT) |
| Biometric and Forensic Ethics Group Chair | Chris Hughes (CH) |

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| Information Commissioner's Office | Meagan Mirza (MM) (teleconference) |
| Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland | Graham Kissock (GK) |
| Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland | Stephen Campbell (SC) |
| Devolved Administration – Scotland | Fiona Douglas (FD) (teleconferencing) |

APPOINTED MEMBERS

| ORGANISATION | MEMBER |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| NPCC – CT Forensic Database | Shazia Khan (deputising) (SK) |

SECRETARIAT

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|--|------------------------------|
| Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS) | Kirsty Faulkner (KF) |
| Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS) | Caroline Goryll (CG) minutes |

IN ATTENDANCE

| ORGANISATION | MEMBER |
|---|----------------------------------|
| Home Office, Interpol and International Biometric Exchange Team | Hilary Brown (HB) |
| Home Office, HOB Programme | Carrie Golding (CGold) |
| NPCC Transforming Forensics Programme | Joanne Ashworth (JA) |
| NPCC – Homicide Working Group | Martin Bottomley (MB) |
| NPCC - Fingerprints | Karen Stringer (deputising) (KS) |

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APOLOGIES:

| ORGANISATION | MEMBER |
|-----------------------------|----------------|
| NPCC – CT Forensic Database | Leigh Williams |

1.0 Welcome, Introduction and Strategic Developments

- 1.1 BS welcomed everyone to the meeting. He said that there are currently significant issues in terms of the market place which are being managed elsewhere. He also acknowledged that it is currently a key time of change.

3.0 Previous Minutes

- 3.1 SK raised that apologies need to be added for LW.

4.0 Action Review and rolling 12 month timetable.

Action Register

- 4.1 KF took the board through the outstanding actions.

27/17 -the security of the NDNAD – HOB are covering a lot of the issues. KF said that she is going to brief BS on this issue and that he will then write to the Permanent Secretary.

30/17 – use of fingerprints in prison for identity – Cgold said that HOB have completed a pilot on this and a lot of foreign offenders have been identified.

04/18 – Fingerprint Data Assurance Strategy – The workshop on this has been delayed.

The 2 actions on VA's have been combined (12/18 & 13/18). PW raised concerns about the lack of guidance in this area.

Action 25/18 – KF to speak to Tony Hirst to establish where the work on VA's currently is and to obtain a copy of the guidance which has been circulated by the Met on VA's.

16/18 – draft consent form for research project – SK said that she has shared with KF & CH. CH said that it needs to be ensured that the project is properly ethically structured.

5.0 Operational Risks and performance

Risk Register

- 5.1 KF took the group through the risk register. One new risk will be raised this period – potential divergent development paths for Scottish Database and national DNA Databases and IDENT 1. KF has met with

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FD. In January Scotland are seeking funding from the Scottish government for their transformation programme. FD said this will enable the Scottish Database to move into HOB but that they do not use PNC. BS questioned the risk if they diverge. PW said that there is a risk that Scotland will have a new set of legislation. SK said that from a CT perspective that if there were separate databases they would need to ensure that all the required checks and balances are in place and that there needs to be the current level of data sharing; no matches should be missed.

Within the existing 7 risks, 4 remain static, two risks are improving and one risk is increasing in severity due to the instability of the market. It is proposed that 2 risks are closed (STRAT 16&17) as they were deemed transient and were resolved in this period.

PW raised that he felt that the risk of Brexit is being underplayed; we could lose European exchanges. CJ said that Christophe Price has done a lot of work on this.

Action 26/18 – KF to add a Brexit risk to the risk register.

BS asked if there are things we are missing, is there anything critical which could come from leftfield. PW raised that there are currently a series of different approaches to international data exchange but these will need to be reviewed after Brexit.

Issues log

- 5.2 KF also took the group through the issues log, one new issue has been added this period (compliance to Data Protection Act with some forces management of the Contamination Elimination Database), one is proposed for closure (Fingerprint accreditation) and there are 2 outstanding issues – one at Black (security accreditation) and one at red (Retention of PACE samples under CPIA).

Escalations

- 5.3 KF went through the escalations.

4 outstanding escalations:

- MI development delays
- NDNAD personal data present in test environment
- Non-compliance to TickIT for NDNAD environments – this will be extended to include TickIT Plus at the point of the publication of the FSR Codes version 5.
- DNA mixtures assigned incorrect match probability status for SFR1

3 new escalations this period:

- CED records retained with incorrect demographics
- DNA elimination kits - non-standard usage (legacy/incomplete forms, aged samples)
- Elimination DNA kits - lack of availability

0 escalations closed this period

MM asked where the CED and personal data in test environment escalations had been raised to formally. She questioned whether they should be referred to the ICO as a test breach. KF said that they are raised to the data protection officer for them to make the decision. She also said they have become aware that forces are not as good as they should be at managing the CED records of people who have left. GT has written to FINDS on the issue of non-compliance to TickIT.

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Highlight report

- 5.4 KF presented the highlight report. She noted the small increase in errors and highlighted the reasons (inclusion of stub records & data from all forces and issues with one FSP). GT said that the issues with one FSP were due to the introduction of an automated system and that these issues are being rectified. The highlight report now includes data on international exchanges. The board agreed the addition of this data was useful but that rather than just making passing comment on it a more strategic look should be taken.

CH said that there is a broader issue around the take up of international exchanges. Are there other countries who should be accepting data from us? CGold said that once we have done the work for Prum the question then arises around other exchanges.

Action 27/18 SK to circulate CT international exchange data from a pilot being carried out.
Action 28/18 CG to add mobile data to the highlight report.

KF said that some work is being done to look at the effect of the reduction in attendance at volume crime scenes. If biometrics aren't being taken the database becomes less effective. BS said that this is a key piece of work and it should feed into the consideration of strategic issues alongside why international exchange isn't being used to its full potential.

MB raised the previous work which had been carried out on near misses for operation barrel.

Action 29/18 KF to circulate the previous board paper on n-1 work
Action 30/18 FINDS to review this work with the DNA Operations group and then bring back to the Board.

KF gave some further background to this work and said that with strategic DNA they are looking at N-2 but with this there is the potential for a lot of familial links.

JA said that on reducing the utility of the database DNA futures is to look at getting more information on the records that we do hold. Forces are looking at the likelihood of getting an outcome rather than just getting a profile.

6.0 Strategic change and delivery to Strategy Board timeline.

Strategy Board timeline

- 6.1 KF has drawn up a more comprehensive Strategy Board timeline (paper 1218/05). The Board all agreed it was useful but CH said it should be expanded to provide a 2025 vision and BS said that we need to look at where this sits within the wider landscape. KF said that the focus should always be about managing risk and this links into risk strat 03 on strategic development.

Action 31/18 – KF, JA, GT and AMD to meet to look at this risk.
Action 32/18 – Timeline to be expanded to expanded to provide a 2025 vision

HOB

- 6.2 CGold took the group through the HOB highlight report and asked them if the strategic mobile dashboard is useful, to which there was a general agreement. She said that the Strategic Mobile Project on-boarding activities are now managed as business as usual and, in the interest of increasing uptake, is offered for free from HOB until the end of March 2019. It has had some really good results and has highlighted people who are wanted for much more serious offences.

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PW asked if a proper review of the pilot is going to be carried out. CGold said that it isn't a pilot but that they will be reviewing the data produced

Action 33/18 CGold to circulate details of her twitter account.

Legislative updates

- 6.3 CJ took the Board through the paper 1218/06.

Forensics Review – Early findings of the review are still with Ministers for consideration. The intention is to publish the Joint Forensics Review after the Lords Science and Technology Committee has reported in the new year.

Strategic legislative and policy roadmap – The paper provided an update on FSR statutory powers and other aspects of legislation including automatic facial recognition.

Facial Image governance – The Board met for the third time on the 29th of Nov. Minutes are currently being drafted and will be issued accordingly. For the first time it had a comprehensive list of occasions where automatic facial recognition has been used.

Action 34/18 CJ to circulate the minutes from the facial image governance board once they are available.

Position for access and use of policing fingerprint data for DSTL

- 6.4 BS said that a productive meeting was held prior to the Strategy Board on this with representatives from DSTL, MOD and the Strategy Board attending. They were able to capture the issues well and have a plan of how we address it with a workshop in January and further legal advice. There are some practical things that we can get on and do and will have the capability to sign off on some of the risks through policing.

Transforming forensics.

- 6.5 JA gave a verbal update on Transforming Forensics. A DNA Futures project board has been set up and they sat in October and they have agreed TOR. They have recognised the need to consider SPA and PSNI agreements. They need to look at what can be done to in the short term to increase the efficiency of the DNA supply chain. A lot of work is being done on efficiency and looking at futureproofing the business. Guidance around VA's – need to look at how we mandate some of the high level processes. We shouldn't allow such variance from the standard. Need to look at what they are self-mandating post 2020. BS asked where forces sit in terms of self-mandating. JA said her and James are doing roadshows around how forces want to progress finding post March 2020.

Action 35/18 JA to share the TOR of the DNA futures project board.

BS asked if there was anything further they need from the Board. JA said that they need a steer from the Board that they are delivering what is required.

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Prüm oversight Board.

- 6.6 HB presented a paper on a Prüm oversight board (paper 1218/07), she asked the Board to agree in principle to the proposal that the Strategy Board (National DNA Strategy Board or Forensic Information Databases Service) provides the necessary independent oversight of Prüm DNA and Prüm fingerprint exchanges which the Government committed to Parliament to provide, in seeking to ensure that the biometric exchange elements of Prüm operate effectively in the UK.

PW said this is probably the most convenient place for it to sit but he has concerns that vehicle registration data is not covered. MM has concerns that not enough is known about the auditing processes and that she will be both auditing and sitting on the Board. There was a discussion around the transition from policy development to setting up as BAU and who has responsibility for what..

BS suggested that the Board agree to the proposal but that more work needs to be done on how they fulfil their function and manage the transition well.

Action 36/18 HB, KF, CJ & RU to meet to discuss this further.

Prüm is 10 years old and we have been asked to consider the ways it can be taken forward in the future. HB has circulated a paper on this. 3 groups have been set up to look at DNA, fingerprints and facial recognition.

Strategic direction of FINDS

- 6.7 KF presented paper 1218/08 on the strategic direction of FINDS. She asked the group to feedback on the proposal and asked them if she is right to challenge and if the change is moving in the correct direction. She asked board members to feed back in January.

**Action 37/18 Board members to feedback on the strategic direction of FINDS by 18th January.
BS suggested that this is brought back to the Board in March.**

- 6.8 Updates from Board members

GT – 5 forces need to do a lot of remedial work to get from PED to CED so she has written to the chief officers of these forces. She will also be writing to the Chief Constables of the 3 forces who have not even applied for fingerprint accreditation.

PW – They have carried out visits to half of forces this year and are preparing their annual report.

GK – Gave an update on the fingerprint holding tank work. They now have a way forward, PSNI have been liaising with the Home Office and FINDS.

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7.0 Any Other Business

- 7.1 CJ raised the issue of Genealogical databases, he asked if the Board needs to develop a position on this and said that the Home Office need to develop a policy position on the use of these databases as they are receiving lots of questions on it. KF said that some work on this has been done through the DNA Operations group **Action 38/18 FINDS to work with the DNA Operations Group to develop a paper on the use of Genealogical databases to present to the next Board.**