

# Have you got what it takes?

Working with The Police ICT Company



# Have you got what it takes?

## Working with The Police ICT Company

### Important facts

The Police ICT Company was established in March 2015 to equip forces to meet the demands of modern day policing through the use of smarter, more cost effective technology. The Company provides leadership, sets standards and policy and enables effective investment, helping forces to be more efficient and to keep the public safe.

The Police ICT Company is registered as a Company Limited by guarantee. It is owned and controlled by PCCs, and is led, and funded, by its customers (primarily police forces and law enforcement agencies). The first Chief Executive for the Police ICT Company (Martin Wyke) was appointed in June 2015.

The functions of the Company are to:

- Provide strategic oversight, giving vision and direction to forces
- Develop and set policy and standards to enable integration and sharing
- Provide expertise and leadership on procurement and licencing
- Deliver national programmes

- Facilitate and encourage collaboration and challenge between forces, the Home Office, partners and industry
- Achieve economies of scale – for example through shared resources
- Embrace thought leadership and innovation – for example in the area of data analytics and insight

Some examples of the early successes of the Company are:

- developing a plan for the transition and transformation of national ICT contracts appropriate for movement from the Home Office
- renegotiating and integrating existing ICT contracts into one contract achieving annual savings of around £530,000 and more than 9,000 hours of procurement time
- commissioning work to achieve at least £1m of savings through procurement of IT commodity products and identifying the potential of further savings in this area which could be up to £1-3m over a year.

### Background

Technology and information are two of the most important weapons used by the police in their fight against crime. Investment in it by police forces reached record levels with nearly £500m planned for 2015/16.

How policing buys and manages complicated ICT provisions is central to its success but is not always done in the most cost effective or efficient way.

When Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) were elected in 2012, the Home Office proposed that PCCs should take ownership of a Police ICT Company. A vote by PCCs confirmed that, given the scale of potential savings in the longer term, the Company should be formed.

An ICT Board (at that time Chaired by Nick Alston, PCC for Essex) commissioned a number of pieces of work to better understand the problem and the scale of the possible savings that could be achieved. This estimated that savings could be at least £150m a year.

The initial cost of establishing the Company and putting in place a management team was £1.2m. Its ongoing running costs will be borne by law enforcement agencies wishing to join the Company.

# More information

## What does the Company do?

The Company is dedicated to meeting policing needs, independent of any individual force, national organisation or supplier and well connected to numerous stakeholders. Their staff have decades of experience within both the policing and commercial sectors.

They can help to buy, put into practice and set standards to help police forces and other law enforcement agencies to be more efficient and to keep the public safe.

## Who are the customers of the Company?

The main customers for the company are the 43 police forces of England and Wales, Police Service for Northern Ireland, British Transport Police and other law-enforcement organisations, such as the National Crime Agency.

## Why become an owner of the Company?

The ownership structure for the Company has been shaped to deliver a full range of services to 'members'. It is backed by strong governance, making members central to the strategic decision-making process. Membership gives organisations the right to go to meetings and to have a voice in decisions relating to the Company's strategies, business plan, budget, location, major transactions and appointing a CEO and other executive posts.

The structure allows the Company to be driven by the needs of the police and to respond to their requirements, as well as allowing them to influence and control the budget.

The company is limited by guarantee and membership is open to all PCCs and their equivalents.

Membership creates a 'mutual benefit'. Forces can use the company's services without carrying out expensive and time-consuming procurement processes.

PCCs do not need to provide any start-up capital or take on the related legal responsibilities for the national contracts – in fact any liability is capped at £1.

For more information: <https://ict.police.uk/>