

## FIND Strategy Board

Protective Marking	Not Protectively Marked
Suitable for publication Scheme (Y/N)	Yes
Title & Version	FIND Strategy Board Minutes – 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2020
Purpose	Record of meeting
Author & Warrant/Pay No	Caroline Goryll, Home Office
Date Created	08/04/21
Date Review	08/04/26

# Open Minutes of Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> December 2020 – By Teleconference  
9.30 – 11.30 am

Present:

## CORE MEMBERS

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
NPCC	ACC Ben Snuggs (BS)
Home Office, representing the Home Secretary	Jeremy Jones (JJ)
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners	Alexandra Campbell (AC) Jon Wasey (JW) representative

## APPOINTED MEMBERS (as set out in the Governance Rules)

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Commissioner of the Retention & Use of Biometric material	Rebecca Madgwick (RM) Representative
Forensic Science Regulator representative	Gillian Tully (GT)
Biometric and Forensic Ethics Group Chair	Mark Watson-Gandy (MW-G)
Information Commissioner's Office	Mark Jones (MJ)

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### APPOINTED MEMBERS

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
NPCC – CT Forensic Database representative	Shazia Khan (SK)
NPCC – DNA	Emily Burton (EB)
NPCC - Fingerprints	Jon Bett (JB)

### SECRETARIAT

Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS)	Juliette Verdejo (JV)
Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS)	Caroline Goryll (CG)

### IN ATTENDANCE

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Home Office, HOB Programme	Amy Morrell (AM)
Home Office	Carl Jennings (CJ)
Home Office	Sanaya Thethy (ST)
Home Office, Interpol and International Biometric Exchange Team	Bianca Russo (BR)
FCN Science	Vicki Burgin (VB)
NCA	Derek Lloyd (DL)
NCA	Debbie Sansom (DS)
NCA	Kathryn Clarke (KC)
Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland	Stephen Campbell (SC)
Devolved Administration – Scotland	Gary Holcroft (GH)

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### APOLOGIES:

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Home Office	Alex MacDonald
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners	Martyn Underhill

#### 1.0 Welcome, Introduction and Strategic Developments

BS welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### 3.0 Previous Minutes (1220/01)

3.1 BS asked for comments on the minutes. MJ asked for the minutes to be updated to reflect that he attended the meeting.

#### 4.0 Action Review (1220/02)

4.1 CG took the group through the action list.

##### 04/18 Fingerprint data assurance strategy

CG confirmed that this is on the agenda and will be closed following comments on the strategy.

##### 13/18 FINDS to provide further information on the numbers on the reduction in sampling and the number of voluntary attendees.

CG said that she had spoken to Home Office Analysis and Insight who carried out the original research and they said that they will not be carrying out any further research because the data was too limited to get any insights out of modelling it. They will be writing up a summary pack detailing the summary statistics and basic evaluation. BS said that he will take this action forward to look at where the effects of VA sampling are being monitored and the work which is being carried out on VA's. This overlaps with workshop action WS-04 so this action will be closed and it will be tracked through WS-04.

##### 19/18 Update of international policy to include Prüm searching of fingerprints.

CG said that the policy has been updated and circulated for comment. There were 2 outstanding issues in relation to fingerprints. The updated policy addresses the 2nd issue (Inbound Prüm step 2 data retention) but the first issue (concurrent exchange of Tenprints and Demographics at the same time) is still outstanding. The policy is on the agenda for discussion.

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06/19 Consider how the dashboard can consider the usefulness of the NDNAD in terms of key indicators for the effectiveness of the NDNAD

CG said that they are awaiting the outcome of the impact of the forensic science project. In the meantime she asked for feedback from Board members on any changes they would like to make to the scorecard and what they would like to see included to measure the effectiveness of the NDNAD.

08/19 EB/MB to present the operational approach to be taken to develop near matching information to be provided to investigating officers.

CG said that this is on hold until the changes to the NDNAD 2 can be made to allow n-2 searching. BS asked when it was anticipated that these changes would be made. JV said that they do not have a timescale yet but that FINDS are looking at different case scenarios and a business case for the change can then be written.

22/19 FINDS to seek update from DDAT on activities to replace the databases.

CG suggested that this action can be closed and it can become a standing agenda item. Board agreed.

03/20 to convene the relevant parties for a decision on the use of Genealogical databases.

GT confirmed the intention is still to hold the meeting in January.

07/20 CG to look at the error figures in the highlight report.

CG said that the outstanding part of this action is; Take forward the reporting of crime scene errors from forces and include it in the data assurance strategy. She said that they have not yet approached forces for crime scene error data due to the pressure put on forces because of Covid-19. She suggested that they start collating the data from 1st April 2021. BS asked what mitigation would be put in place in the meantime. CG suggested it could be discussed at the DNA Operations group in January 2021 and the next PLG to understand forces resources and ability to consistently provide the subject error data with a view to provide crime scene error data in April.

15/20 BR, MU, Chris Porter and Richard Martin to discuss the concerns around the outcomes of Prüm matches and to address these concerns

JW updated that he proposed to close the action as Lee McKean has undertaken work to work with forces to look at the outcomes of Prüm matches. He proposed to open a new action - Lee's findings are not clear cut as forces responses use different decision making thresholds. It is deeper and identifies that further action and exploration in this area is required. There is great disparity between forces and work needs to be done to look at what the baseline looks like and what the threshold should be.

BS questioned whether this new action should sit with the Strategy Board or the Prüm Delivery Board and who would do the work for it. AM agreed with what JW said, she said that there was a lot of data and the sequencing of it didn't give a good enough picture. Lee McKean has reported this at the HOB Customer Board. She said there are various

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reasons why forces are not progressing to step 2 including action not being in public interest, duplicates and age.

BR agreed, she said the action can be closed and another opened. She said that it does sit with the Prüm Delivery Board. She said Lee McKean is working with the ICCG on this to see how the data can be improved, they need to unpick it all and see what the future of Prüm looks like.

BS said that he didn't want to repeat the work of the Prüm Delivery Board, he said that a new action should be raised to track the work which is being done on this by the Prüm delivery Board. BR is happy to bring updates from the Prüm Delivery Board to this Board.

New action 24/20 BR to update Board on work to look at the outcome of Prüm matches.

19/20 AMacD and PW to discuss the issue relating to young offenders. Where forces are using procedures to deal with young offenders that don't involve charge and don't lead to them gaining a PNC record and whether forces can apply for a 63G request to retain the Biometrics.

RM said that PW had raised in his interim annual report whether forces can apply for a 63G request to retain these Biometrics. She said that it depends on the programme being run by each force. PW had spoken to BS with regards to this before he finished his term. BS had agreed to take this forward; RM asked for an update. RM and BS to discuss.

Strategy board workshop actions.

CG took the Board through those actions which have been updated. BS asked the Board members to ensure that these actions are being progressed.

WS-04 - Ensure work is progressed to address the specific known issue affecting biometrics with regards to VA's – BS agreed to be the action owner and discuss with Nick Ephgrave where the governance and monitoring best sits.

WS-13 - Ensure the Strategy Board are kept updated on the direction design of the FCN esp. FCN science to allow them to input if necessary. – Close as FCN is a standing agenda item.

### 5.0 Operational Risks and performance

#### Risk & issues Register (1220/03)

5.1 JV took the Board through the risk register

Risk status of existing 9 risks remains static, no new risks added.

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- STRAT03, 11 & 15 – all relate to a lack of a roadmap and funding. The risk status likely to improve following issue of the output of the FCN/FINDS DNA Futures workshop held in November 2020.
- STRAT10 – Although DNA exchange increased to 11 EU MS and Fingerprint exchange went live with Germany in October 2020, there is no a lack of clarity on Prüm data exchange post EU exit.
- STRAT 15 – Assessed as improving but may stall due to 2021/22 SR

### Issues Log

Status of existing 2 issues remains static, no new risks added.

- SBIS01: NDNAD2 went live in November 2020 and Preventative Monitoring now in place. IRAR recommendations (security improvements) to be addressed over 3 month and 6-12-month period.

JV said that since the paper had been written there was a further update on SBIS01. Previously the NDNAD was not in security accreditation because NPIRMT were unable to provide security accreditation. NPRIMT have now moved away from providing accreditation and have adopted an approach based on continuous security assurance.

FINDS have a regular Security Working Group meeting with NPIRMT and following the implementation of NDNAD 2 and the feedback so far is that the NDNAD 2 is in a green status. Continual security enhancements are being made on an agreed time schedule The issue will therefore be closed and it will be raised again if there are any further concerns raised.

- SBIS04 Some data not provided since Covid-19.

FINDS will engage with the new Biometrics Commissioner to confirm how frequently the CPIA information is needed and a follow up strategy when data isn't provided.

### Escalations

5 open escalations:

- NDU-ESC-052 MI development delays
- NDU-ESC-068 NDNAD personal data present in test environment – review following NDNAD2
- FINDS-ESC-082 Non-compliance to TickITplus for NDNAD environments
- FINDS-ESC-091 FINDS Birmingham – site move – relocation date confirmed for the end of January
- FINDS-ESC-092 IDENT1 CT collection searching

One new escalation:

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- FINDS-ESC-093DNA Boost and CED services outage (05/11/2020 – 09/12/2020)

The new escalation on the DNA Boost and CED service outage was be closed as it has been fixed.

BS asked if FINDS-ESC-93 was something that is likely to happen again and if steps have been put in place to prevent it happening again. JV said that this service is managed by an external IT contractor and that unfortunately the contract had lapsed. This has now been rectified and more robust procedure for contract renewal has been put in place.

### Highlight report (1220/05)

5.2 CG presented the scorecard.

- Loads to the NDNAD have increased this quarter
- The crime scene match rate peaked in May 20 and has since reduced
- The error graphs have been updated to report force error rates over time and to report lost samples separately. The force error rate has reduced this quarter but there have been some concerns about the returns from forces and the consistency of these has reduced.

CG asked Board members to feedback on any changes/updates they would like to see to the scorecard.

BS asked what the mechanism is for tracking this inconsistency in force returns on errors and to work with forces to improve processes and reduce these errors. EB said that this could be taken forward through the DNA Ops group and FCN.

**Action 25/20 – CG to work with EB to look at the force errors and provide an update at the March Board.**

### International DNA and Fingerprint exchange (1220/06).

5.3 JV said that the international DNA and fingerprint exchange policy had been circulated for review with comments to be returned by 17/12/20. There were 2 key updates in the policy:-

- Sharing of suspects DNA
- Step 2 processes once data is passed from NCA to forces.

FINDS have been asked by the International Select Committee to make these updates by 31st December 2020. A comprehensive review of the document, including further points raised will be made in 2021.



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DS presented paper 1220/06 on the upload of extradition fingerprints to PNC using the Ident1 policing tenprint collection as an interim process.

JV said that she had had discussions with the NFPO regarding the proposal and that FINDS broadly support the proposal as an interim solution if the appropriate checks and controls for data assurance and compliance to data protection were in place. She also stressed the need for (and assurances on the progress of) a long-term strategic solution such as an international special collection. DS said that they already have an established process in place with Interpol and this complies with PoFA and GDPR.

JW also stressed the need for a long term position and assurances around the time line. As it is a manual upload he asked if there will be prioritisation because of the delay. DS said that they will focus on the red notices first. JV queried what the process will be for uploading 50,000 records. DS said that nominal PNC records have been set up for the 50,000 records that they know are in existence and they will carry out prioritisation on UK Fingerprints and serious crime and are hoping to automate some of it.

### **Board decision**

BS said that the Board agree to recommendation 1 to allow extradition fingerprints to be uploaded to the policing collection to Ident 1 as an interim measure.

He said they noted recommendation 2 - a new ad hoc collection is created within PNC for International Fingerprints, but that was for DCC Nav Malik to agree as NPCC PNC lead.

### **FINDS Fingerprint Data Assurance Strategy (1220/07)**

5.4 JV said that the fingerprint data assurance strategy is currently separate from the DNA one but in the long term they will be put together. The responsibilities section outlines the responsibilities for FINDS and HOB. The FINDS performance monitoring will look at errors that are reported to them. It will be a risk based approach looking at the type of error and where the error occurred. The highest risk is the red area where the incorrect set of demographics are being assigned to the incorrect biometrics.

Further development will be to consider alongside the DNA strategy and introduce an error rate.

GT said that it is a good start but that she wanted to flag 2 areas of risk:

- 1) It is largely reliant on errors being reported by forces; how robust is this data
- 2) There are a very small number of bureaus who have their IDENT 1 bureau in the scope of their accreditation.

This risk will remain until the new matcher comes in and then forces will have 18 months to become accredited.



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JV said that they are limited on the data they can obtain from IDENT1. She said that they will consider whether the wording needs to be updated in light of GT's comments. She said FINDS will support forces with their accreditation.

### **Board Decision.**

BS said that the Board agree with recommendation 1 - Note the responsibilities of the individual aspects of fingerprint data assurance and that they agree with the approach for recommendation 2 but that there is more to do – note and endorse the approach to fingerprint Force performance monitoring.

## **6.0 Strategic change and delivery to Strategy Board timeline.**

### **NDNAD 2 post go-live update**

- 6.1 JV gave an update on NDNAD 2, the new database went live on 23rd November 2020. At Go-Live FINDS had to tolerate some low priority defects and a couple of high priority ones with the agreement that these would be addressed shortly after Go Live during the 'Early Life Support' phase. There was a release to address some of these on the 16th December, this addressed the PoFA defects and another one is planned for the 2nd or 3rd week of January. It is planned that going forward there will be quarterly releases to address any security patches and the low priority defects.

The next stage of the programme is to complete stage 1.2, including MPDD and CED, and this is reliant on funding being available. There may only be enough funding to complete the CED elements and not the MPDD part. FINDS have been discussing the requirements for the CED with GT. She has confirmed that she requires;

- Search on load
- Ability to do regional searching as well as national
- Introduce near match for CED

This work on CED won't be worked on until April 21 and beyond.

FINDS have been working with FCN on DNA futures. They have been progressing the additional loci work and have been looking at the YSTR work. They have made a bid to the STAR committee for funding to generate a frequency database for the YSTR work.

### **Prum update (1220/08)**

- 6.2 SK gave an update on Prüm, she took the Board through a presentation.

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### DNA

Prüm DNA is a 2 step process with article 3 being BAU searches and article 4 being legacy searches. MPS are responsible for step 1 and the NCA are responsible for step 2.

On ministerial direction they have accelerated their connections this year. They will have connected with 12 member states by the end of the week with addition of Belgium that week (Friday 18th December 2020). They have now started including suspect data from Scotland and Northern Ireland.

### Fingerprints

AM took the group through the fingerprint dashboard. Requests come from forensic bureaus for subjects and marks. There are 1,131 marks in the Prüm pot. The aim is to search these by marks by the end of December.

SK then took the Board through the EU exit preparations. The project are preparing for 3 outcomes:

1. Non- negotiated outcome
2. Negotiated and ratified
3. Negotiation on specific tools after 31st December

JV asked if there was any data from when searching was previously carried out via Interpol. SK said she didn't have it to hand but that the numbers were low.

**Action 26/20 SK to share data on previous sharing via Interpol with JV.**

## **Biometrics Governance (0920/06)**

6.3 JJ gave an update on Biometric Governance. He said there were 3 areas he wanted to update on:

- There has been another meeting of the Biometric Strategy Board. It is developing a national biometric strategy and is looking at new technologies; it will be looking at any legal or ethical issues.
- CC Jeremy Vaughan from South Wales police is acting as SRO to develop a facial recognition strategy. They are looking at requirements for facial recognition.
- They are working closely with police (Met and South Wales) on the use of facial recognition. The collage of policing are producing national guidance.

BS raised that with all of the different boards and large forensic portfolio the landscape is quite cluttered. Need to ensure that each area does what it needs to without unnecessary duplication, recognising that some overlap in understanding and awareness is understandable and necessary.

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### Legislative Update (Paper 1220/09)

- 6.4 CJ provided an update on the paper, including the Protection of the Police and Public, Court and Sentencing Bill (PPPCS) and the Forensic Science Regulator private members Bill.

### Scotland control of records on NDNAD & IDENT 1

- 6.5 GH said that they have had an internal review. Their new Scottish Biometrics Commissioner will take their position in April 2021, the paper on Scotland having some control of records on UK Databases will come after that. This control is needed to allow Scotland to carry out their own weeds; they have a different legal system.

### Transforming Forensics and Forensic Capability Network

- 6.6 VB asked if a regular highlight report for the Board would be useful; BS said it would. VB said that FINDS and FCN have set up a very useful collaboration group and they are supporting each other. They have picked back up the DNA futures work with FINDS because of the spending review some areas of this might not be as achievable as they hoped.

They are also looking at a refreshed fingerprint and capabilities roadmap for DCC Rachel Swann. She acknowledged that FCN need to be sighted on a lot of the fingerprint issues discussed to include them. They have completed a literature review and are working with NCA to build up a map of the use of DNA so that new technologies can overlaid on it.

She asked for key stakeholders to volunteer to be on the capability boards that they are setting up.

**Action 27/20 VB to produce FCN/ Transforming Forensics highlight report for the March Board.**

### Updates from Board members.

- 6.6 GT said that she wanted to highlight a couple of risks in relation to the CED.
- There is incomplete coverage of police staff because the police staff council won't change their position on the taking of samples being voluntary for existing staff.
  - The time taken by forces to look into CED matches. These are potential contamination events and it is taking up to 2 years for some.

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VB said that from her work on the SARC project in force she has seen that police staff are reluctant to give samples because they don't understand what they are being searched against and how long their sample will be held. She said that she gave them a letter of reassurance from the chief constable that the samples were being used for reasons of contamination detection not for criminal investigations.

BS asked if the delay by forces to investigate CED matches is on the Ops group register. CG and EB confirmed that it isn't.

**Action 28/20 JV to add delay by forces to investigate CED matches to the Ops group risk register**

**Action 29/20 CG to add CED reporting to the quarterly force reporting and track the delay by forces to investigate CED matches through the Ops group.**

AM said that the fingerprint service is moving from Northrup Grumond to Lidos at the start of January. Forces have been providing support by giving Lidos demonstrations in their use. Northrup Grumond will support Lidos for a number of months following the transition.

### **Any Other Business**

- 7.1 BS said that he would like to acknowledge that this was GT's last Board, he thanked her for her contribution to the Board. He said that she had always been both a support and welcome challenge to the board and challenged with grace and humility but with great fervour. He said that she was valued personally as well as her role of Forensic Science Regulator and wished her well for the future.