

FIND Strategy Board

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Open Minutes of Meeting

1st July 2021 – By Teleconference
13.30 – 16.00 pm

Present:

CORE MEMBERS

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

APPOINTED MEMBERS (as set out in the Governance Rules)

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Commissioner of the Retention & Use of Biometric material	Fraser Sampson (FS) Rebecca Madgwick (RM)
Forensic Science Regulator representative	Gary Pugh (GP) June Guinness (JG)
Biometric and Forensic Ethics Group Chair	Mark Watson-Gandy (MW-G)
Information Commissioner's Office	Mark Jones (MJ)
Scottish Biometric Commissioner	Dr Brian Plastow (BP)

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APPOINTED MEMBERS

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
NPCC – CT	Shazia Khan (SK)

SECRETARIAT

Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS) - Chair	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, Interpol and International Biometric Exchange Team	Bianca Russo (BR) Lester Hartnett (LH) Pam Thethi (PT)
FCN Science	Vicki Burgin (VB)
NCA	Debbie Sansom (DS) Steve Cox (SC)
NPCC – International Crime Coordination Centre (ICCC)	Helen Dommett (HD) Steve Collins (SC)
Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland	Noel Rainey (NR)
Devolved Administration – Scotland	Gary Holcroft (GH)

APOLOGIES:

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
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Home Office	Alex MacDonald
NPCC – DNA	Emily Burton
Devolved Administration – Scotland	Fiona Douglas
Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland	Stephen Campbell
NCA	Kathryn Clarke

1.0 Welcome, Introduction and Strategic Developments

BS welcomed everyone to the meeting; he asked the new members of the Board to introduce themselves.

3.0 Previous Minutes (0721/01)

3.1 No comments – minutes agreed

4.0 Action Review (0721/02)

4.1 CG took the group through the action list.

17/19 CJ to produce advice for ministers on genealogical Databases

JJ said that as advice had previously gone to ministers the BFEG have published their guidance on it he felt additional advice to ministers wasn't needed and that the action can be closed. CG said that the only outstanding part of the action is that BS was going to use the advice to ministers to brief James Vaughan. JJ provided BS the link to the BFEG report – Use of genetic genealogy to assist with solving crimes to use to brief James Vaughan. Agreed action can be closed.

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 she had had her first meeting with forces and FSP's to scope what crime scene error information they collect and what they would be able to provide. Both forces and FSP's expressed the difficulty in collecting this data and the outlined the challenges in collecting it. She asked GP if further clarification on what crime scene error data is required is possible; GP said he was happy to meet to discuss.

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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 provided an update on this action. She said that as there is no legal basis to take the biometrics in these cases without consent this action can be closed. There would need to be a legislative change to allow the taking of biometrics in these cases.

26/20 SK to share data on previous sharing via Interpol with JV. SK said that this information is available in the scorecard. – close action

01/21 JG to send VB the FSR DNA rapid hit guidance. VB confirmed that she had received this guidance – close action.

Strategy board workshop actions.

CG took the Board through those actions which have been updated.

WS-12 - Ensure continued engagement between Home Office International and the Strategy Board about the strategic plans for biometric sharing outside Prüm. – DS said that work is on-going looking at how they can make better use of Interpol. CG said that this action needs to be more specific and we need to understand what Board members want to see for this. BS asked the Board members to feedback to CG

5.0 Operational Risks and performance

Risk & issues Register (0721/03)

5.1 JV took the Board through the risk register

No new risks added. Points to note:

STRAT 15 - Lack of funding will stagnate the databases supply chains and degrade forensics services - HOB funding available in 2021-22 for CED doesn't cover full project requirements. Minimum Viable Product being considered to continue current service provision with improved stability and support. Likelihood of risk increased from Medium to High.

STRAT 18 - IDENT1 system change management not robust - Following meetings with IDENT1 Special Collection practitioners and HOB colleagues, recommendations are being considered to identify where Special Collection practitioners can be included in existing governance and how to increase communication to users on future changes / developments as well as to

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identify how IDENT1 users can support the testing process for system releases impacting Special Collections. Risk remains Static.
BS asked what is expected and when, JV confirmed that they do not know yet.

Issues Log - One existing issue remains open.

SBIS04 – compliance to CPIA - A Full return has now been received for Dec 20, and there are only 4 outstanding forces for Mar 21. June return now due – will send copy of BC letter with request. There has been some improvement in CPIA data provision. FINDS to discuss with new Biometric Commissioner.

Highlight report (0721/04)

5.2 CG presented the scorecard.

After the initial drop in loads due to covid-19 loads have steadied off but they dipped again in February. The data assurance graph on slide 3 shows the errors identified through FINDS data assurance activities. Unfortunately due to FINDS resourcing they are still awaiting the latest quarter data on FSP errors but it can be seen that the force errors identified have dropped in the last quarter.

Slide 5 shows match rates, from the earlier action FINDS have started to look at partiality of loads and the effect on match rate. The partiality of crime scene profiles loaded in the quarter has been calculated. Partiality is measured as the percent of crime stain DNA profiles loaded to the NDNAD that month where there were less than 10 full loci present. It fluctuates between 9.5 and 10.5 % of crime scene profiles loaded had less than 10 full loci present.

Slide 8 looks at the total number of force errors for subject sampling. As well as the previously mentioned FINDs identified errors it also covers those errors identified by the forces and FSP's. Lost samples are also on this graph; these have increased this quarter; this is likely due to there having been the reduction in the previous quarter.

The last 2 graphs look at the types of force error seen in more detail. The first of these 2 graphs looks at all error types and the second one just looks at red errors – these are those with the potential to affect matching on the NDNAD. The increase in VA samples was due to 62 out of these VA errors being reported by one force. The Force became aware of an issue with DNA samples being taken too early in the VA procedure and have taken corrective action to audit the samples they store and are currently implementing a new procedure within Force. The increase in incorrect form used was due to one force who has seen an increase in these errors 25, this has been queried with the Force who have highlighted a training issue with 2 officers.

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CG suggested that the international search data should be in a separate stand-alone document compiled by the NCA – Board agreed.

International DNA and Fingerprint exchange.

- 5.3 JV said that a comprehensive review and update of the HO FINDS International DNA and Fingerprint data exchange policy has started following the EU exit and that a number of the issues to be covered by the review will be covered in this agenda item.

Prüm Update 0721/05 a&b

- 5.4 SK gave an update on Prüm DNA. She said that Prüm is a 2 step process with the Met undertaking step 1 on behalf of policing. They are now connected to 12 member states; the high numbers of matches they are seeing demonstrates the usefulness to member states. More recently they have been working on adding the exchange of suspect's data. They prioritise matches on the quality of the match and the severity of the crime.

SC went through step 2. Step 2 is where there has been a confirmed match of UK data against Member States' systems and a request is made via the NCA to the relevant Member state for the demographic data. It can be inbound or outbound. They are not completing as many step 2 processes with Ireland due to them having different legislation around the sharing of international data.

BR provided an update on the policy side she said that the sharing of suspects data will be part of the Prüm re-evaluation that the UK will be going through; they believe the deadline for this is September. They are seeing the policies around Prüm develop as it becomes more embedded and becomes BAU. They are currently working through some issue with mutual aid assistance and Belgium and also have some issues with countries sharing minor's data. They are working on expanding the fingerprint exchange but currently only exchange with one member state.

SCol from the International Crime Coordination Centre (ICCC) provided a presentation on the work of the ICCC to look at the outcomes of prüm matches. The slides showed where they were and where they are now in relation to the validation of matches. The ICCC only stepped in to record and communicate Prüm outcomes on the 7th December.

Delegated authority for international biometric exchange via Prüm Treaty & Interpol 0721/06a,b &c

- 5.6 SC presented paper 0721/06a to ask the Strategy Board to consider continuance of the delegated authority to the National Contact Points MPS (Step 1) NCA (Step 2) as

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joint controllers for international biometric exchanges for a policing purpose via Prüm Treaty and paper 0721/06b to ask the Strategy Board to consider delegating authority to the NCA as joint controller for international biometric exchanges for a policing purpose via INTERPOL channels. This would mean that there would be a consistent approach for international searching via Interpol and Prüm. If agreed the HO FINDS International DNA and Fingerprint data exchange policy would be updated to reflect the status of joint controller for the National Crime Agency to disseminate intelligence related to a biometric hit via INTERPOL or Prüm channels independently and or in liaison with the data owner.

BS welcomed that standardisation of these 2 processes – **Board agreed the decision.**

Fingerprint Process Relating To Requests For Extradition 0721/07

5.7 DS presented paper 0721/07 on to provide an update on 1220/06 FIND Strategy Board of December 2020 and to seek agreement to continue to use current manual process. Whilst the UK participated in SISII, biometrics were received as supplementary information alongside the European Arrest Warrant (EAWs). An automated process uploaded any fingerprints onto PNC and added them to a discrete collection on IDENT1. Following the loss of SISII, access via LIVESCAN to the SISII cache on IDENT1 ceased and all information held was deleted. Fingerprints of those wanted for arrest are available via INTERPOL channels. Uploading these onto UK core systems is currently a manual process and is resource intensive.

DS said that they are working with HOB to find a long term automated solution but she wanted to update the Board in the meantime. They are hoping that HOB will have a proposal by the end of July. All fingerprints will go into a separate container.

BS asked if there is a deadline for the introduction of the automated system; DS said that there isn't. BS reiterated that the board need to make sure that they are only agreeing things within their influence.

Board agreed the continuation of the current manual process.

Voluntary attendees 0721/08.

5.8 JV presented paper 0721/08 on behalf of Emily Burton on a Greater Manchester pilot project in place looking at implementing the NPCC led Out of Court Disposals (OCD) initiative. This project aims at increasing the use of OCD's by simplifying the process. The concern is that in increasing the number of out of court disposals will mean some individuals will completely bypass the Custody and VA processes altogether so will not have biometrics taken.

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BS asked if GMP are doing this pilot nationally on behalf of policing or whether it is just a GMP initiative. JV to find out.

Action 02/21 JV to find out who GMP are doing the out of court disposals project on behalf of.

BS reiterated that the Strategy Board should be looking at things within their influence.

FS said that this is an unintended consequence of PoFA, arrests are very intrusive so a criteria to arrest has to be met was introduced. Forces recognise the need to reduce the level of intrusion but in doing so they reduce the sampling opportunities. This reduction in sampling opportunities can't be solved by work arounds. JJ said that the taking of biometrics is an intrusion of privacy and that to take biometrics for these cases would require a change in legislation; this would be controversial legislation and would need a collective request from policing.

BS said that he is happy to work with NPCC partners on VA's and taking biometrics for out of court disposals but he doesn't think everyone is joined up enough and he doesn't know what the requirements of policing are.

JV asked people to feed back on the paper; she said she would like to understand where the 18 month time frame came from. She questioned whether it needs to go on the risk register.

6.0 Strategic change and delivery to Strategy Board timeline.

HOB update

6.1 JV provided an update on DNA she said that the project to work on the CED started this financial year. Funding has been made available through the HOB programme but it will not be enough to meet all of the requirements so FINDS and HOB are looking at the minimum viable product. It maybe that the project just looks at stability and support of the database. Wherever it sits it will continue to have logical separation from the NDNAD.

JV provided an update on the PNC recovery work.

There is on-going development on NDNAD 2 to work through a number of defects from NDNAD 2 go-live.

AM provided an update on fingerprints, she updated on 3 projects:-

- FCBP – Leidos took over from Northrop Grumond in January

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- Strategic Matcher – there have been some delays; it is being delivered in 3 stages. Stage 1 is due to be delivered in Q4 21/22
- Mobile biometric enrolment – DCC Nav Mailik will be scoping out the requirements; it needs to meet police and immigration requirements.

FSS archive to Hendon virtual estate (Paper 0721/09)

- 6.2 JV presented paper 0721/09. In 2020 FINDS commissioned a piece of work to investigate the options to move the Forensic Science Service (FSS) Archive system off the unsupported Hendon infrastructure and onto a modern platform/cloud offering. The FSS Archive project team has now completed their investigations and recommended the FSS Archive system migrate to the Hendon Virtual Estate (HVE).

The FSS archive is the electronic profiles not case files etc. The proposal in the paper is to move the archive to the HVE and then in a couple of years move it to Police Secure Access Platform (PSAP). But JV said that since the paper was written the time lines have changed and the move to PSAP will now be quicker so it might not need to go into the HVE.

BS asked where the governance for the project sat; JV said that it is being managed by Police and Public Protection Technology (PPPT) with input from NPIRMT (and the assurer Rick Smith). It is part of the data migration project, FINDS will do the UAT. BS said that as things are changing on the time scales it isn't a decision to be made but a direction of travel to note.

Biometrics Governance

- 6.3 JJ gave an update on governance. Chief Constable Lee Freeman is setting up a working group on custody images with representatives from Home Office and Policy. Custody images was a major focus of the Science and Technology committee; they were interested in forces compliance with MOPI. They were also interested in toxicology and accreditation.

Chief Constable Jeremy Vaughan, South Wales Police, has taken over as co-chair of the Biometrics Strategy Board, and Lindsey Chiswick has taken over from him as the chair of the AFR Board. There will be a sub Board of the Biometrics Strategy Board looking at voice. The Biometrics Strategy Board is expected to focus on facial.

He said he had had an approach from DWP about searching on the NDNAD and their current MOU; he has asked them to put their request in writing. JV asked him to liaise with Andy Thomson in the first instance.

JJ said that they are planning to update the surveillance codes. FS said that all forces should have a requirement for the surveillance codes and they should have great

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significance attached to them because custody images present a significant risk to policing.

Legislative Update (Paper 0721/10)

6.4 JJ provided an update on the paper

DNA futures.

6.5 JV said that work is continuing between FINDS and FCN on the DNA futures working group. YSTR project is progressing; they were successful in a HO starboard bid for funding and work is progressing on the processes for collecting samples.

Transforming Forensics and Forensic Capability Network

6.6 VB provided an update through a presentation. She said that through their work with the community they are seeing that policing want the problems of today fixed before they focus on future. She said they want to get to the point where they are more proactive about the future.

DNA Good Practice Manual sign off (0721/11).

6.7 VB presented paper 0721/11 she said that they have been working on the update of the DNA Good Practice Manual and were wanting a steer on what the sign off process for this should be, the badging of the document, the method of publication and section of the manual providing guidance on the definitions of insufficient and unsuitable in relation to re-taking failed samples.

They do not want to delay publication so a proposing a full legal review of definitions of insufficient and unsuitable in relation to taking samples. BS said that the question on badging is a question of ownership; should it be FINDS team or the FINDS Strategy Board. VB said that overall ownership should be the NPCC. FS said that badging and legal ownership are different, whoever is referred to as having ownership should have legal ownership. It needs to be able to show accountability.

Decision - It was agreed it should be badged FCN, FINDS and the NPCC, with it being the FINDS team rather than the FIND Strategy Board.

VB said that they are going to publish on knowledge hub and provide instructions on the FCN website on how to access.

Decision - It was agreed it should be published on knowledge hub.

Taking fingerprints for vetting for new and transferring officers (0721/12).

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- 6.8 VB said the paper on Taking fingerprints for vetting for new and transferring officers had been presented at the last Board where it was agreed that the working group should be set up. BS agreed that it should be but that it needs to link in with the NPCC lead for biometric vetting – Chief Constable Debbie Tedds.

Updates from Board Members.

- 6.9 GP said that he wanted to outline what he will be doing following commencement of the act. One part of this is the definitions for the codes for the forensic databases – going to be speaking to JV. He is also going to be looking at facial.

SK said that they have started a pilot on genetic genealogy it is in the design phase. They have put together a starboard bid for funding and have a number of work streams in place.