

FIND Strategy Board

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Open Minutes of Meeting

29th September 22 – In person Broadway House
10.30 – 14.30 pm

Present:

CORE MEMBERS

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
NPCC	CC Ben Snuggs (BS)
Home Office, representing the Home Secretary	Jeremy Jones (JJ)

APPOINTED MEMBERS (as set out in the Governance Rules)

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Commissioner of the Retention & Use of Biometric material representative	Nikki Cowley (NC)
Forensic Science Regulator representative	Gary Pugh (GP)
Biometric and Forensic Ethics Group Chair	Niamh Nic Daeid (NND)

APPOINTED MEMBERS

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
NPCC – DNA	Emily Burton (EB)

SECRETARIAT

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

IN ATTENDANCE

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Home Office, HOB Programme	Ian Betts (IB)
Home Office, Interpol and International Biometric Exchange Team	Bianca Russo (BR)
FCN Science	Vicki Burgin (VB)
NCA	Paul Jolliff (PJ) Roy Yarnold (RY)
Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland	Noel Rainey (NR)
Devolved Administration – Scotland	Gary Holcroft (GH)
Scottish Biometric Commissioner representative	Brian Plastow
HO – Deputy Director, Strategy, commissioning and Forensic Information Services.	Jen Leech
Information Commissioner Office	Natasha Andrews

APOLOGIES:

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
NPCC – Homicide Working Group	Martin Bottomley
NPCC – CT	Shazia Khan
Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland	Stephen Campbell
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners	Darryl Preston Alexandra Campbell

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Devolved Administration – Scotland	Gary Holcroft (GH)
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1.0 **Welcome, Introduction and review of the current governance rules of the FIND Strategy Board leading to review of the wider biometrics landscape and governance**

Board members asked to feedback on governance rules by 13/10/22

GP raised that through his role becoming a statutory function there is now the requirement for there to be statutory regulation of the forensic databases, he will be starting with fingerprints and DNA. The governance rules will therefore need to be updated to reflect this.

2.0 **Legal & policy Update**

2.1 The new policing minister is Jeremy Quin.

JJ said that the Data Reform Bill (now called the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill) had its first reading in the House of Commons in the summer and is awaiting the 2nd reading and committee stage.

Post meeting note – the second reading has now been completed

The main 2 points in the Bill which have relevance to the Board are:-

- Abolition of the Biometric Commissioner and Surveillance Camera Commissioner posts – the statutory functions of these posts will move to the Investigatory Powers Commissioner (IPCO).
- Adding governance of fingerprints to the FIND Strategy Board remit.

BP raised that the Biometric Commissioner has some statutory functions in Scotland, and asked what is going to happen to these - it will need to be worked through.

BR raised that Retained EU Law (Revocation & Reform) Bill is going through a lot quicker than anticipated. The main purpose of the Bill is to sunset all retained EU law which means the Accreditation of Forensic Service Providers SI would fall away. This would lead to CRBNE labs not having any underpinning legislation for the forensic

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framework. BS asked what the impact is to policing and BR said that it is low. It is about the recovery of material, but it is a requirement of Prüm.

BR said that it provides an opportunity because the regulators code as replacement can be pushed.

BS asked where the risk is being tracked – it is through the Home Office as these laboratories are Home Office sponsored. BR & GP to bring update to next board.

Action 7/12 GP and BR to provide update on the retained law at the December Strategy Board.

3.0 Facial searching overview

3.1 JV gave presentation (slides circulated to Board Members after the meeting).

NA asked for the ICO to be involved in the Strategic Facial Matcher project, particularly in relation to the data migration from a data protection perspective. IB confirmed that they have been working with Steve Wright.

BP raised the question of who the data would be shared with, there are concerns from Scotland that it wouldn't just be policing it would be other agencies. JJ said that it up to the data controller to define this and also the data sharing agreement which is place for it.

The question of whether there should be a national data controller for custody images and whether the governance should sit under the FIND Strategy Board was discussed. It was felt that it should. Currently there are large discrepancies between how different forces manage custody images and it was felt that there is no control and that more governance should be put in place.

JV confirmed that there would be data integrity check on the data being transferred from PND.

GP confirmed that it will fall under his regulatory standard, biometric searching is very different to forensic searching but that at the moment no custody suits are accredited to ISO17025 which they would need to be. He said that it's not just custody images that need to be considered it is all facial images. NND said that there are both covert and non covert images.

NA raised whether there can be a national data controller when the images are being used in so many different ways by people.

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PJ asked what they would be searching the custody images against, is it just to confirm identity – fingerprints does this. IB confirmed that it would just be an internal search within the Unified Collection of Custody Images (UCCI).

Action 08/22 JV & IB to confirm what will be searched and projected timelines.

BR confirmed that facial images are anticipated to be included in the next generation of Prum.

Action 09/22 Board members to provide feedback on facial matching slides by 14/10/22

4.0 FINDS Road maps

4.1 JV showed the current FINDS roadmaps, they are an aim for what FINDS would like to achieve, and is dependent on funding. BP asked if there is a 4-year strategic plan. JV confirmed that FINDS produce a yearly business plan that details the unit's strategic objectives and strategic roadmaps.

5.0 NMR prioritisation

5.1 JV went through the NMR prioritisation paper (slides circulated to Board Members after the meeting).

Action 10/22 Board members to provide feedback on NMR prioritisation by 14/10/22

GP said that he thinks that a function of FINDS should be the centralised control of matching algorithms (such as Familial searching, NMR and DNA boost) and that the authority of algorithms should sit with FINDS.

JJ asked for clarification of a serious offence – it is those offence codes used by police forces to define serious offence.

6.0 DNA futures.

6.1 VB provided an update through a presentation.

GP said that consideration needs to be given to the vision for databasing in the future. JL said that there is a futures commissioning group which she might take some of this work to.

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7.0 HOB update

- 7.1 IB provided an update through a presentation. NA raised the issues of MOU's between law enforcement and the Home Office in the sharing of biometric data. JV & IB to discuss further.

Action 11/22 JV & IB to discuss MOU's between law enforcement and the Home Office in the sharing of biometric data

NND asked if there is a timeline for the delays in Strategic matcher. JV & IB to discuss.

Action 12/22 JV & IB to timeline for delays in Strategic matcher.

It was suggested that as part of the HOB Update for the board it could include a product map.

8.0 Genetic Genealogy

- 8.1 JV provided an update on the progress of the project

9.0 Current strategy landscape and the future (short / medium / long term)

- 9.1 BS asked participants to split into 3 pre-determined groups and consider what is on the Strategy Board landscape. The group then met back up to go through the key areas identified.

Strategic Focus Workshop Output Discussions

Short term

VB said that a key aspect is the change in Prime Minister and ministers, the potential lack of funding and budget cuts. This will have a large impact not only on the marketplace but also on policing.

JJ asked if policing are aware of all the different products and services available to them. JV said that familial searching is not utilised much and that there is a lack of awareness of usefulness and successes. VB suggested that the homicide working group could be used to provide this clarification of products.

Action 13/22 MB to work with homicide working group to promote to police forces products and services available.

PJ said that there are now newer young service police officers with less experience.

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NND said work needs to be done to share data to build up an artificial intelligence database. FCN are working with STFC. Academics and researchers have the expertise and skills to draw meaning from the data but are unable to afford to pay for ground truth databases to be set up.

NND said that consideration needs to be given to increasing public engagement and that it needs to be looked at from a justice perspective not a prosecution one. She works with a lot of community groups and feels that public confidence is very low.

Mid term

JJ asked if voice or iris are the fourth biometric. The use case must be considered. NND said that ENFSI have a group looking at voice. She also said that there is work ongoing to look at peoples' digital footprints.

Long term

The future science needs to be considered.

Operationally data handling and storage accreditation standards need to be considered.

VB said that consideration needs to be given to accreditation of custody suits for sample capture.

JL said that knowledge, skills and expertise must be developed and maintained.

NND said that neurological brain scanning will be used.

NA said that the implications of a big data breach need to be considered as more databases become joined up.

NND said that for all these new types of biometrics it is important to have a legal framework before they are implemented.

Next steps

BS asked CG & JV to collate the feedback and produce a set of actions for the next meeting in December 22. VB said that she would like to have an action to revisit the DNA futures roadmap to look at the next 5 years in line with discussions at the workshop and discuss it with the community.

Action 14/22 VB to revisit the DNA futures roadmap to look at the next 5 years 5 in line with discussions at the workshop and discuss it with the community.

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10.0 Statutory Items.

10.1 0922/02 – minutes agreed.

0922/03 – CG went through the action list.

0922/04 – JV went through the risk register:

Strat 19 - Access to FSS Archive (raw DNA profile data) will be unavailable if the current hardware at HDC fails before transition to cloud hosting via PSAP (Police Secure Application Platform).

SBIS04 - Compliance to CPIA

It was agreed that this issue can be closed but NC asked where this will sit once the functions of the Biometric Commissioner have moved to the IPCO. JJ confirmed it is only the statutory functions that are to be moved over.

Action 15/22 NC, JV & JJ to discuss where compliance to CPIA retention will sit following the functions of the Biometric Commissioner moving to IPCO.