

FIND Strategy Board

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Author & Warrant/Pay No	Caroline Goryll, Home Office
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Open Minutes of Meeting

21st September 23 – In person

10.30 – 1pm

Present:

CORE MEMBERS

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
NPCC	DCC Ben Snuggs (BS)
Home Office, representing the Home Secretary	Nicola Kenny (NK)

APPOINTED MEMBERS (as set out in the Governance Rules)

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Commissioner of the Retention & Use of Biometric material representative	Nicola Cowley (NC)
Forensic Science Regulator representative	Chanda Lowther-Harris (CL-H)

APPOINTED MEMBERS

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
National Police Chief's Council (NPCC) – Counter-Terrorism (CT) - Representative	Shazia Khan (SK)

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SECRETARIAT

Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS) - Head of Unit	June Guinness (JG)
Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS)	Deborah Wright (DW)
Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS)	Caroline Goryll (CG) Casius Stone (CS)

IN ATTENDANCE

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Home Office Biometrics (HOB) Programme	Ian Betts (IB)
Home Office, Interpol and International Biometric Exchange Team	Bianca Russo (BR)
National Crime Agency (NCA)	Paul Jolliff (PJ)
Scottish Biometric Commissioner representative	Diego Quiroz (DQ)
Home Office – Deputy Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Forensic Information Services	Jennifer Leech (JL)

APOLOGIES:

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Forensic Science Regulator	Gary Pugh
Commissioner of the Retention & Use of Biometric material representative	Fraser Sampson
NPCC – Homicide Working Group	Martin Bottomley

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National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) – DNA	Emily Burton
Biometric and Forensic Ethics Group representative	Niamh Nic Daeid
Information Commissioner’s Office	Natasha Andrews
Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland	Noel Rainey
Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland	Stephen Campbell
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners	Darryl Preston Alexandra Campbell
Forensics Capability Network (FCN)	Vicki Burgin
Scottish Government Head of Forensics Policy: Police Powers Unit	Elaine Hamilton
Scottish Biometric Commissioner	Brian Plastow
Home Office Biometrics (HOB) Programme	Stuart Robertson
Scottish Government - Forensics Policy: Police Powers Unit	Ryan Paterson
Police Scotland	Gillian Jones
Scottish Police Authority	Gary Holcroft

1.0 Welcome, Introduction and Strategic Developments

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

3.0 Previous Minutes (0923/01)

3.1 Minutes updated following feedback and agreed by the Board.

4.0 Action Review (0923/02)

4.1 The meeting went through the action register updates.

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05/19 Concerns about the veracity of the data obtained from Fingerprints. To be discussed later on the agenda. Action closed as the paper has been brought to the Board.

03/22 Head of FINDS to liaise with Police Digital Services (PDS) to have a risk assessment of risk to the delay in moving the Forensic Science Service (FSS) Electronic Archive to HOB Virtual Desktop (HVD). Work is continuing with PDS on assessment of all systems. As FSS electronic archive has now migrated to Hendon Virtual Estate there is no longer the delay. Board agreed to close the action.

04/22 FINDS to progress work on subject error data to enable subject error reduction strategies. Update provided. Board agreed to progress through the risk register covered by STRAT 02 risk.

05/22 Chair and Head of FINDS to share NPCC legal advice on the retaking of samples with key stakeholders The Police National Computer (PNC) change for this is being scoped.

11/22 FINDS & HOB representative to discuss MOU's between law enforcement and the Home Office in the sharing of biometric data. A draft data sharing agreement between NPCC and Home Office has been completed prior to the Board meeting and circulated with FINDS and other key areas for review.

15/22 ICO representative, FINDS Head of Unit and Home Office Head of Biometrics Policy to discuss where compliance to Criminal Procedure and Investigations Act (CPIA) retention will sit following the functions of the Biometric Commissioner moving to Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office (IPCO). Meeting to be held on 27/09/23 to discuss next steps.

16/22 FINDS to implement a pilot on near matching information to be provided to investigating officers. This will involve n-1 familial data from 2019 –2020 to indicate the benefits and work involved. The near matches generated remain under investigation. The Board agreed to close this action.

01/23 Chair and Home Office Deputy Director to discuss escalation of risks around NDNAD 2 infrastructure. An update on the infrastructure and the

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recommendations made in the review is later on the agenda. Board agreed to close this action as there are mechanisms in place to address it.

05/23 Home Office Prum / International Biometric Exchange representative to bring a paper to the Board on Prum II proposal. To be brought to December meeting.

08/23 NCA Prum Biometrics lead to confirm the reason for the inclusion of Scottish Police Authority in the Interpol data. Scottish Police Authority have been updated to Police Scotland in the data pack. Action closed.

09/23 Board members to feedback on the recommendations in paper 0623/11 on Elimination databases work. No feedback received. Action closed.

10/23 Board members to feedback any suggestions of improvements to the FIND Strategy Board Annual Report. Draft will be circulated for comment. Action closed.

Action Review (0923/02) - Update on Infrastructure review

- 4.2 An overview of the infrastructure review and the recommendations made from it was provided. The chair requested that the Board have more detail on the options considered in the review to agree the recommendations. The Board agreed they will review the other options and provide comments by 13/10/23.

5.0 Risk & issues Register (0623/05)

- 5.1 Head of FINDS took the group through the risk register there are seven open risks with updates. It was proposed to reduced STRAT 19 but was agreed it should remain static.

Issues Log Summary: One issue open – propose to close

- SBIS05 Security culture and outstanding security enhancements – IT Health Check (ITHC) has been conducted on NDNAD2. The NDNAD2 now follows a quarterly release cycle whereby updates, security patches and scheduled maintenance is carried out. Board agreed to close.

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Escalations Summary: One escalation to remain open.

FINDS-ESC-094 PNC Record deletions impacting NDNAD and IDENT1: Further work on outstanding PNC messages required.

The impact of the risks on the Devolved Administrations and the raising of Devolved Administration risks were discussed.

Highlight report (0923/04)

- 5.2 The FINDS scorecard was presented.

International DNA and Fingerprint exchange.

Interpol DNA Exchange update 0923/05a and Fingerprint Prüm & Interpol Update 0923/05b

- 5.3 The Prüm metrics were reported and an international policy update on Prüm was provided. Terms of reference for the Prüm Delivery Board are being reviewed. All of the member state connections should be completed by the end of the year and this presents an opportunity to look at the remit of Board and what they can improve on Prüm. The Board will be presented with an update for them to provide a view. The review will feed into a business case for Prüm II if one is required. Prüm II is going through the negotiation stages. It was suggested that the Board annual report could include a section on the benefits of Prüm.
- 5.4 An update on DNA exchanges through Interpol and Prüm and Interpol fingerprint searches was provided via papers 0923/05a & 0923/05b.

HOB update

- 5.5 An update on the HOB Programme was provided. Strategic Facial Matcher is progressing. They achieved the service commencement date of 01st September and are now in full delivery mode. Discussion is ongoing with police and colleagues concerning the scope and scale of Strategic Facial Matcher. A further update will be provided at the next Board.

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Office of the data protection Officer (ODPO) Assurance review – Fingerprints (0923/06)

- 5.6 In June, in accordance with the ODPO privacy and data protection annual assurance plan for 2023-2024, FINDS and the HOB Programme supported a review of the personal data protection aspects of the use of biometrics within the Home Office. A workplan has been established and the recommendations are closely aligned to activities already underway in HOB and FINDS to strengthen the data protection compliance.

Action 12/23 FINDS to investigate whether it is possible to share the report from the ODPO assurance review of fingerprints with the Board.

The chair agreed to note the findings and that progress against the actions will be monitored through the Board.

Vulnerable Persons fingerprints (0923/07)

- 5.7 DNA and Fingerprints for Vulnerable Persons (VP's) are both captured, stored, reviewed, and retained in completely differing manners. Discovery work has highlighted that for fingerprints, updates to the guidance and identifying areas for improvement would be beneficial in alleviating issues policing face relating to VP's. A paper on this was presented and these options were discussed. The Board were asked to endorse the proposal that a NPCC lead working group is established to discuss the issues identified, consider suggested improvements, and update the Guidance to provide further clarity and consistency. The Board agreed.

Action 05/19 – IDENT1 MI update 0923/08

- 5.8 The Board were asked to endorse the high-level draft user needs on IDENT1 Management Information. These have been submitted to HOB to review to establish options and related costings. These are expected by the end of March. The chair asked Board members to feedback by 13/10/23.

Action 13/23 Board members to feedback on paper 0923/08 on IDENT1 MI requirements by 13/10/23.

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War in Ukraine - DNA samples from family members (0923/09)

- 5.9 Previously the Strategy Board were asked to endorse FINDS holding the DNA profiles of families in the UK who believe they have lost relatives in the War in Ukraine (previous paper 1222-09). The Board was updated that a more efficient process has been identified. FINDS and the NCA United Kingdom Missing Persons Unit (UKMPU) will now work in collaboration with the International Commission on Missing Persons (ICMP) to assist relatives based in the UK. The Board agreed to the proposal in principle but it could not endorse due to the APCC not being present. Following consultation with the APCC representative after the Board, the proposal was agreed.

6.0 Strategic change and delivery to Strategy Board timeline.

Biometrics Governance & Legislative Update

- 6.1 An update was provided on the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill. It passed through its House of Commons committee stage in May without any amendments. The team are confident that it will pass through the remainder of the stages un-amended and it is anticipated that it will reach the House of Lords stage in Spring 2024.

FCN update (paper 0623/11)

- 6.2 FCN brought a paper to the last Board concerning the Biometric Elimination Databases. The Board were asked if they are content for FCN to progress with the proposals and develop a plan for delivery. It was agreed that the paper would be circulated again (0623/11) and Board members would feedback by 13/10/23.

Action 14/23 Board members to feedback on paper 0623/11 on Biometric elimination databases by 13/10/23.

Research projects

YSTR project update

- 6.3 An update was provided on the YSTR project, with further sampling exercises taking place.

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Genealogy pilot

- 6.4 An update was provided on the Genealogy pilot.

Annual report

- 6.5 The FIND Strategy Board annual report 22/23 is being drafted and reformatted. It has been agreed that some of the static content will be moved to the website rather than it being repeated yearly in the report.

Updates from Board Members.

- 6.6 It was noted that Fraser Sampson is leaving the post of Commissioner of the Retention & Use of Biometric material on the 31st October. The chair and Board acknowledged his support and wished him well for the future.

It was noted that the Forensic Science Regulators Code of Practice will be enacted in October.

AOB

- 6.7 An update on the recruitment of the new FINDS Head of Unit was provided.