

FIND Strategy Board

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Open Minutes of Meeting

21st March 2024 – 2 Marsham Street, London/Microsoft Teams

10.30am-1.00pm

Present:

CORE MEMBERS

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC)	Ben Snuggs (BS)
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners	Alexandra Campbell (AC)
Home Office representing the Home Secretary	Lucy Bradshaw-Murrow (LB-M)

APPOINTED MEMBERS (as set out in the Governance Rules)

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Biometrics and Surveillance Camera Commissioner	Tony Eastaugh (TE)
Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group representative	Niamh Nic Daeid (NND)
Forensic Science Regulator	Chanda Lowther-Harris (CL-H)
Scottish Biometric Commissioner	Dr Brian Plastow (BP)

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APPOINTED MEMBERS

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
NPCC – Counter Terrorism (CT) Forensic Database	Shazia Khan (SK) via teams

SECRETARIAT

Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS) - Head of Unit	Zo-dee Ledger (ZL) via teams
Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS)	Caroline Goryll (CG)
Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS)	Deborah Wright (DW)

IN ATTENDANCE

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Home Office Biometrics (HOB) Programme	Lee Winnett (LW) Ian Betts (IB) Chris Burton (CB)
Home Office, Interpol and International Biometric Exchange Team	Bianca Russo (BR)
National Crime Agency (NCA)	Roy Yarnold (RY)
Home Office – Deputy Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Forensic Information Services	Jennifer Leech (JL)

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APOLOGIES:

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners	Darryl Preston
Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland	Stephen Campbell Noel Rainey
NPCC – Homicide Working Group	Martin Bottomley
NPCC – DNA	Emily Burton
Information Commissioners’ Office (ICO)	Natasha Andrews Ian Deasha
Forensic Science Regulator	Gary Pugh
Devolved Administration – Police Scotland	Gillian Jones
Scottish Government Head of Forensics Policy: Police Powers Unit	Elaine Hamilton
Home Office Forensic Information Databases Service (FINDS)	Casius Stone
National Crime Agency (NCA)	Paul Jolliff
Forensics Capability Network (FCN)	Vicki Burgin

1.0 & 2.0 Welcome, Introduction and Strategic Developments

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Chair provided a strategic-level update. He said that a new Science and Innovation Coordination Committee has been set up by the National Police Chief’s Council. It is being chaired by Chief Constable Jeremy Vaughan. Below that there will be a Delivery Board called the National Science and Innovation Board (NSIB) which BS chairs. The aim of this is to deliver the science, innovation, and technology priorities for police chiefs.

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The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) elections are on the 2nd May.

3.0 Previous Minutes (0324/01a & b)

3.1 No update to previous minutes from Board.

4.0 Action Review (0324/02)

4.1 The meeting went through the action register updates.

07/20 Take forward the reporting of crime scene errors from forces – include in data assurance strategy. Action was previously on hold. Discussion has commenced on this at the Quarterly Supplier Performance Meeting (QSPM) and is at the initial planning stage. FINDS are also in discussion with FCN. Action can be closed once the requirements have been scoped and a mechanism agreed.

05/22 Chair and Head of FINDS to share NPCC legal advice on the retaking of samples with key stakeholders. Update given; PNC have agreed to make this change but due to other on-going incidents, PNC resource for this change is not yet available. The Chair said that he can help escalate if required.

11/22 FINDS & HOB to discuss MOUs between law enforcement and the Home Office in the sharing of biometric data. Update given; all documentation has been drafted now for both IDENT1 and NDNAD. Meeting held with FINDS to step through them. The Home Office Data Protection Office team have completed their review of the IDENT1 documentation, and they are currently with the NPCC Data Protection Team for final review prior to Chair sign off.

15/22 ICO representative, FINDS Head of Unit and Home Office Head of Biometrics Policy to discuss where compliance to CPIA retention will sit following the abolition of the Biometric Commissioner. It has been agreed that the NPCC Forensic Portfolio Board will take on oversight of the CPIA retention figures. FINDS will include the figures in the highlight report produced for the meetings. **Close action.**

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05/23 Home Office International Policy representative to bring a paper to the Board on Prüm II proposal. On agenda to be discussed. **Close action.**

15/23 Secretariat to add update on Contamination Elimination Database (CED) data breeches on March meeting agenda. No data breeches in the last quarter so not added to agenda. Will bring data to Board when breeches occur.

16/23 FINDS to link in with Homicide Working Group representative to discuss letting the Chief Coroner know about the quarterly searching of the Vulnerable Persons DNA Database (VPDD) static dataset against unidentified bodies.

This action concerned the quarterly searching of unidentified body profiles against the vulnerable person's static dataset. FINDS have drafted some wording on this for inclusion in the Chief Coroners newsletter.

17/23 Board members to feedback to JJ on the Gaughran judgement options by 08/03/24. Six pieces of feedback have been received further feedback requested.

18/23 Secretariat to move Genetic Genealogy higher up the agenda for the March 24 meeting and extend allocated time. Close action.

5.0 Operational Risks and Performance

Risk & Issues Register (0324/03)

5.1 Risk register reviewed; there are six open risks with updates, the Board discussed ways to progress some of the older risks. One new escalation has been raised on the full deletion of weeded fingerprint records from PNC.

Action 01/24 FINDS to update Board on FINDS-ESC-099 when updates are available.

Highlight report (0324/04)

5.2 The FINDS scorecard was presented. The summary of services has been updated with references to the National Footwear Database because this board does not cover footwear.

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International DNA and Fingerprint exchange

Interpol DNA Exchange update 0324/05a and Fingerprint Prüm & Interpol Update 0324/05b

- 5.3 Figures on Interpol and Prüm DNA and fingerprint searches were presented. The chair said that it would be useful to have a longer view of the data.

Action 02/24 - NCA representative to bring yearly Interpol search data to the FIND Strategy Board.

Action 03/24 - Home Office international policy representative to bring updated Prüm search data to the Board.

Action 04/23 - FINDS to consider adding enhanced Prüm data to the annual report.

International policy

- 5.4 FINDS have updated the international policy and will be circulating to the Board ex-committee for approval.

Prüm II proposal

- 5.5 An update was given on the Prüm II proposal. There is now an adopted legal position from the EU, which sets out an overarching legal framework which modernises the existing Prüm arrangements and adds some new requirements. How things will operate will be set out in implementing Acts. A decision on UK participation will require extensive consultation, including a Cabinet write-around. The Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA) sets out a 9-month process for reaching a decision and if no agreement has been reached within 9 months, the EU can suspend all or part of Title II, which relates to the exchange of biometric data with EU member states; the suspension can be extended by a further 9 months. The main changes are a centralised router for exchanges, the exchange of facial images, changes to how the NCA provide policing intelligence (step 2 data), the voluntary exchange of police records, messaging formats, new infrastructures, and exchanges with Europol.

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6.0 Strategic change and delivery to Strategy Board timeline.

Genealogy pilot

6.1 An update was given.

Action 05/24 – Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) CT representative to produce a briefing on the Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) project.

HOB update

6.2 An update on the HOB Programme was provided. Good progress is being made on Strategic Matcher with the new Matcher supplier. They have passed through user acceptance testing. The next step is engagement workshops with Force Bureau to run through Matcher guidance and to work closely with volunteer forces for Matcher Parallel Run. HOB Virtual Desktop went live in November, and they have recently launched the CED on it.

All profiles loaded to the NDNAD have a unique 8-digit barcode, these barcodes are used in a large variety of systems throughout the criminal justice system. For example, PNC, police force systems, forensic suppliers, and the kit manufacturers. The 8-digit barcodes are running out, so another system needs to be found. An owner for this work needs to be identified and a project team set up.

Action 06/24 - HO Science Deputy Director to discuss barcode issue with HO Director of Science & Technology Delivery and Strategy.

Action 07/24 - Replacement barcode system to be added to the risk register.

Annual report

6.3 Head of FINDS thanked Board members for feeding back on the annual report. There was a proposal to include contextual figures in the report, FINDS would like to do it within specific crimes. Due to the need to verify the figures this will be implemented for the 23/24 report.

Chair said subject to any comment from Home Office Policy, the Board are happy to sign off the report.

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Biometrics Governance & Legislative Update

- 6.4 An update on the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill was provided. It has started the Committee Stage in the House of Lords and there have been a few amendments suggested.

A paper was brought to the previous Board on the options to respond to the Gaughran judgement. They have had a meeting with the Department for the Execution of Judgements to update them on the work they are doing to respond to that judgement. The Department for the Execution of Judgements advises the EU Committee of Ministers in its function of supervision of the implementation of the European Court of human Rights judgements. A few responses to the paper have been received and the team would welcome any further responses. Once they have received all responses, they will present a preferred option to the Board for sign off which will form the basis of their response. The Department for the Execution of Judgements said that it has to be present and practical.