

## FIND Strategy Board

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## Open Minutes of Meeting

11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Microsoft Teams

09.30am-12.00pm

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	Gary Pugh (GP) Chanda Lowther-Harris (CL-H)
Scottish Biometric Commissioner representative	Diego Quiroz (DQ)

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Information Commissioners' Office	Natasha Andrews (NA) Ian Deasha (ID) Howl Flynn (HF)
Devolved Administration – Police Scotland	Gillian Jones (GJ)
Devolved Administration – Scottish Police Authority (forensics)	Helen Haworth (HH)
Scottish Government - Head of Forensics Policy representative: Police Powers Unit	Ryan Paterson (RP)

## APPOINTED MEMBERS

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
NPCC – Counter Terrorism (CT) Forensic Database	Shazia Khan (SK)
NPCC – DNA	Emily Burton (EB)
Information Commissioners' Office	Natasha Andrews (NA) Ian Deasha (ID)

## SECRETARIAT

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

## IN ATTENDANCE

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Home Office Biometrics (HOB) Programme	Lee Winnett (LW) Ian Betts (IB)

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Home Office, Interpol and International Biometric Exchange Team	Pam Theti (PT) Phoebe Buchanan (PB)
National Crime Agency (NCA)	Roy Yarnold (RY)
Forensics Capability Network (FCN)	Vicki Burgin (VB)
Home Office – Deputy Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Forensic Information Services	Jennifer Leech (JL)
Home Office, Policy	Zainab Vankad (ZV)

### APOLOGIES:

ORGANISATION	MEMBER
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners	Darryl Preston
Devolved Administration – Northern Ireland	Stephen Campbell
NPCC – Homicide Working Group	Martin Bottomley
Scottish Biometric Commissioner	Dr Brian Plastow
Scottish government Head of Forensics Policy: Police Powers Unit	Elaine Hamilton
NCA	Paul Joliff

### 1.0 & 2.0 Welcome, Introduction and Strategic Developments

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 3.0 Previous Minutes (0624/01 a & b)

3.1 No update to previous minutes from Board.

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### 4.0 Action Review (0624/02)

4.1 The Board went through the action register updates.

**07/20 Take forward the reporting of crime scene errors from forces – include in Data Assurance Strategy.** The Data Assurance Strategy will be updated in Q2-3 this year to include custody (facial) image retention on the IDENT1, and an update will be included at the same time for crime scene assurance purposes. FINDS are working on error codes for the crime scene errors.

**05/22 Chair and Head of FINDS to share NPCC legal advice on the retaking of samples with key stakeholders.** Update given; this is still awaiting PNC resource to complete the change. Timescales to be clarified.

**11/22 FINDS & HOB to discuss MOUs between law enforcement and the Home Office in the sharing of biometric data.** Update given; HOB representative will send the chair the National Fingerprint database (IDENT1) documentation week commencing 10<sup>th</sup> June and the National DNA Database (NDNAD) documentation by the end of June for final sign off.

**15/23 Secretariat to add update on Contamination Elimination Database (CED) data breaches to March agenda.** The number of CED data breaches are now routinely monitored by the DNA Operations Group as a standing agenda item. The numbers have reduced significantly since last presented at the Strategy Board with only two breaches in the last quarter. The data presented to the DNA Operations Group is done so to allow meaningful analysis of the data. **Board agreed to close action as monitoring systems are now in place.**

**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.** FINDS have spoken to Chief Coroner's Office and have submitted wording on this for inclusion in the Chief Coroner's newsletter. **Board agreed to close action.**

**01/24 FINDS to update Board on the escalation FINDS-ESC-099 when updates are available.** A Ministerial Information to note (ITN) has been drafted by Police Public Protection Technology (PPPT) for Crime and Policing Minister, with input from

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FINDS. This was circulated to Board members. This escalation will be discussed more in the risks and escalations section. **Board agreed to close action and track progress through the escalation updates.**

**02/24 National Crime Agency (NCA) to bring yearly Interpol search data to the FIND Strategy Board.** On agenda. **Board agreed to close action.**

**03/24 International Policy representative to bring updated Prüm search data to the board.** Enhanced data not yet available.

**04/24 FINDS to consider adding enhanced Prüm data in the annual report.** Currently the enhanced data requested is not available for 23/24 report but will be included when available. **Board agreed to close action.**

**05/24 CT representative to produce a briefing on the Investigative Genetic Genealogy (IGG) project.** In progress - this will be circulated ex-committee.

**06/24 Deputy Director, Strategy, Commissioning and Forensic Information Services to discuss barcode issue with HO Director of Science & Technology Delivery and Strategy.** Completed with further action to identify a system wide owner. Subsequently FINDS have agreed that barcode ranges can be redistributed from one area to another which will extend the time until all the three series barcodes need to be changed from approximately 3 to 5 years. This issue has been added to the risk register and FINDS proposed to close the action at this time. **Board agreed to close action.**

**07/24 Secretariat to add barcode system to the risk register.** Completed – on risk register – **Close action.**

### 5.0 Operational Risks and Performance

#### Risk & Issues Register (0324/03)

- 5.1 Risk register reviewed. There are seven open risks with updates, one of which has been raised this quarter. One new issue has been raised on the data which is held from those individuals affected by the Post Office / Horizon Scandal and one issue, and one escalation remain open.

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**Action 08/24 FINDS to monitor barcode issue, progress on identifying replacement and keep Strategy Board updated.**

### **Highlight report (0624/04)**

- 5.2 The FINDS scorecard was presented. There were no significant fluctuations in data compared to the previous quarter.

### **FCN update.**

- 5.3 FCN Director of Science provided an update. With effect from 1st April 2024 the FCN is funded from the NPCC Operating Budget, putting it on a more sustainable footing. They have been working with NPCC and the forensic community to finalise their Delivery Plan for 2024-25, which has been shared with the Forensic Portfolio Board and the Forensic Community Reference Group. Additional asks over and above their commitments within the plan need to be submitted for consideration via a formal commission. She outlined FCN key deliverables for 24/25. One of the areas they have made significant progress in is the Sexual Assault Referral Centres (SARCS) area which has led to around £5.9 million in cost avoidance for policing and SARCS.

### **Paper 0624/10 change to reporting partial profile matches.**

- 5.4 The DNA Operations Group chair presented paper 0624/10. The DNA Operations Group have commissioned a project between forces, forensic service suppliers and the FINDS team to look at how we currently report on partial DNA profiles that match against the database and how they are reported out to forces. The paper outlined what the current position is for reporting these and a recommendation for an amended approach to the way that we report these.

The Board agreed with the recommendations, but Board Members indicated they would like to contribute to the wording of the narrative and the clarity that would go alongside it. In terms of the wording relating to the partial match there are complex factors to be considered; it may have value in both inclusion and exclusion

**Action 09/24 FCN to circulate wording to be used for partial matches for review by Board members.**

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### **International DNA and Fingerprint exchange**

#### **Interpol DNA Exchange update and Fingerprint Prüm & Interpol Update 0624/06**

- 5.5 An update was given on Prüm DNA and fingerprint exchanges, and Interpol DNA and fingerprint exchanges. This included the yearly data for the period 2023/2024.

An update was given on the international policy work including setting up the Interpol Biometrics Hub within their unit, next generation Prüm which includes facial images, and the evolution of the Prüm Delivery Board into a new governance that covers broader international biometric sharing purely for law enforcement purposes.

#### **Identification of sperm donors through PACE profiles.**

- 5.6 The Head of FINDS went through a request which FINDS have received to use the NDNAD to identify sperm donors through Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) profiles. Due to the novel nature of this request, it was felt that it should be discussed at the Board.

The Board agreed that they needed further information about this request before making a decision.

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

##### **FINDS DNA 3-year Roadmap.**

- 6.1 The FINDS 3-year DNA roadmap was presented.

#### **Contamination Elimination Database (CED) 0624/08**

- 6.2 The updates required to the CED were discussed. A workshop has taken place to develop the user requirements CED and FINDS have received the impact assessment in terms of cost and a timescale for this work.

The Forensic Science Regulator outlined the importance of this work on the CED.

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It was agreed to add to the September agenda for a longer update.

### **Strategic facial matching update**

6.3 Head of FINDS gave an update on strategic facial matching.

### **HOB update**

6.4 An update on the HOB Programme was provided. They are about to deliver Stage 1 Matcher - fingermark to print for law enforcement. They have also been working on strategic facial matching. The team have been working with fingerprint bureaus and have developed guidance for policing to increase the usage of Prüm fingerprint exchange. The latest version of the HOB Project Business Case has been produced and submitted to the Home Office Investment Committee. This is seeking investment committee approval for HOB to maintain their funding as part of the programme business case.

### **Biometrics Governance & Legislative Update**

6.5 With the general election announcement, changes to the Data Protection and Digital Information Bill have fallen away. The role of Biometrics Commissioner and Surveillance Camera Commissioner will now not be abolished and will be maintained. The casework function that was going to move over to the Investigatory Powers Commissioner's Office will now stay with the Biometric Commissioners Office as will the general biometrics oversight and surveillance camera. Expanding the Strategy Board on a statutory basis to include oversight of other biometric databases and update the name also did not go through.

### **Retention of Y-STR Markers (loci) on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) progression update 0624-11**

6.6 FINDS and the FCN have started work on the inclusion of YSTR markers on the NDNA. This would be for both crime stain and subject DNA profiles. A benefits case is being developed highlighting the importance of this to the criminal justice system and a paper with more detail will be developed for the FIND Strategy Board in September.



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### **Annual report**

6.7 The annual report for 22/23 was published on the 22nd of May. This is now available on the website and work has started immediately on the 23/24 report. Publication is aiming for September after the parliamentary recess. The Board were presented examples of the updated infographics which will be included. Board members were asked to feedback on these by 25<sup>th</sup> June. A full draft of the annual report will be circulated in July for review.

### **AOB.**

6.8 The Home Office recruitment freeze and impact on FINDS was discussed.