

For public release

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER (PCC) FOR LINCOLNSHIRE  
REQUEST FOR DECISION**

REF: 014 / 2020

DATE: 14 July 2020

<b>NATIONAL COLLABORATION AGREEMENT IN RELATION TO THE FORENSIC CAPABILITY NETWORK (FCN)</b>	
REPORT BY	<b>ASSISTANT CHIEF CONSTABLE</b>
CONTACT OFFICER	<b>Deputy Chief Constable Chris Haward, East Midlands Special Operations Unit</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY AND PURPOSE OF REPORT</b> The Forensic Capability Network (FCN) is essentially a network to enable the police forces to work better nationally to delivery high quality specialist forensic science capabilities.	
<b>RECOMMENDATION</b>	<i><b>That the Police and Crime Commissioner approves the signing of the Collaboration Agreement in respect of the Forensic Capability Network</b></i>
<b>POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LINCOLNSHIRE</b> I hereby approve the recommendation above, having considered the content of this report.	
	<b>14 July 2020</b>
<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date</b>

**A. NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE PCC**

**A1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

1. The parties to the agreement are PCCs and Chief Constables of all forces in England and Wales.
2. The overarching aim of the collaboration agreement is to enable police forces to work together nationally to deliver high quality, specialist forensic science capabilities; to share knowledge; and to improve resilience, efficiency, quality and effectiveness. The aims and responsibilities are summarised below as:

- 2.1 to enable the Parties to work together nationally to deliver high quality, specialist forensic science capabilities;
- 2.2 to share knowledge and to improve resilience, efficiency, quality and effectiveness within forensic science in law enforcement;
- 2.3 to support and enable a network of forensic science professionals, who will share skills and expertise to improve standards and be able to share workload to increase resilience;
- 2.4 to help to define, co-ordinate and orchestrate forensic science delivery, focus investment and engage with the marketplace to continually improve forensic capabilities across law enforcement;
- 2.5 to deliver a platform and toolset that provides the technology to connect and enhance Police Services' existing forensic capabilities and enables them to share work by using common processes and policies;
- 2.6 to identify and exploit forensic science opportunities so that the Parties can better meet current and future law enforcement challenges;
- 2.7 to achieve and maintain quality forensic science services with efficient, standardised processes, and to act as a single voice with key standards and accreditation stakeholders;
- 2.8 to define, develop and maintain a sustainable and forward-looking commercial marketplace for both traditional and digital forensic science;
- 2.9 to maximise resilience and effectiveness through the design, introduction and maintenance of new ICT platforms, tools, operating models and business change support;
- 2.10 to continue to seek opportunities to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of one or more of the Parties in respect of the provision of forensic science services; and
- 2.11 anything which could be considered incidental or ancillary to any of the aforementioned aims.

## **A2. LINKS TO POLICE AND CRIME PLAN AND PCC'S STRATEGIES/PRIORITIES**

The Agreement links to the Police and Crime Commissioner's objective of "Effective policing, there when you need it and responsive to differing community needs" within the Police and Crime Plan.

## **B. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Details of the financial contribution are outlined in the Agreement, specifically within Schedule 2. The budget will be reviewed and approved on an annual basis.

## **C. LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

*[This should include the legal powers the PCC has for making the decision]*

The Agreement is in full accordance with Section 22A of the Police Act of 1996 as (as amended by the PRSRA). The Agreement includes a clause that ensures that adequate controls are in place to monitor compliance with matters such as legal requirements, applicable national standards, ethical and equality standards, financial regulations, standing orders, employment legislation and Human Resources policies.

**D. PERSONNEL AND EQUALITIES ISSUES**

*[This should include a copy of the Equality Impact Assessment, if required]*

The Agreement includes a clause that ensures that adequate controls are in place to monitor compliance with matters such as legal requirements, applicable national standards, ethical and equality standards, financial regulations, standing orders, employment legislation and Human Resources policies.

**E. REVIEW ARRANGEMENTS**

The Agreement may be reviewed on an annual basis, or as determined by the Policing Bodies.

**F. RISK MANAGEMENT**

The agreement contains provision that each party agrees to comply with the provisions of the Business Continuity or Disaster Response (BCDR) Plan and ensure that it is able to implement its obligations under the BCDR Responsibilities and the BCDR Plan at any time

**G. PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION**

Information in this form along with any supporting material is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC’s website within one working day of approval. However, if release by that date would compromise the implementation of the decision being approved, publication may be deferred. An explanation for any deferment must be provided below, together with a date for publication.

<p><b>Is the publication of this form to be deferred?</b> No</p> <p><b>If Yes, for what reason:</b></p> <p><b>Until what date:</b></p>
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Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate part 2 form.

<p><b>Is there a part 2 form?</b> Yes</p> <p><b>If Yes, for what reason:</b></p> <p>The Collaboration Agreement is an unredacted version of the Agreement and should not be published on the grounds that it could undermine operational tactics.</p>
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## DECLARATIONS

	Initial to confirm
Originating Officer: ACC Kerrin Wilson recommends this proposal for the reasons outlined above	KW
The CC's Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this proposal	SC
The Chief Constable has been consulted on this proposal	BS
The PCC's Chief Finance Officer has been consulted on this proposal	JF
The PCC's Monitoring Officer has been consulted on this proposal	MB

## OFFICER APPROVAL

### ***Chief Executive***

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. Consultation outlined above has also taken place. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire.



14 July 2020

**Signature**

**Date**