



TO: Business Co-ordination Board

FROM: Chief Constable

DATE: 22nd July 2013

OPERATIONAL UPDATE

1. Purpose of Paper

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to provide an operational update to the OPCC. This will cover: Covert Surveillance and Alert Implementation, 101 Performance is covered within the Performance Report.

2. Covert Surveillance

- 2.1 RIPA 2000 (Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000) provides a statutory framework for law enforcement and other public authorities relating to
- a) Interception of communications
 - b) Acquisition of communications data
 - c) Directed and Intrusive Surveillance
 - d) Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS)
- 2.2 Within that framework issues such as legality, proportionality and necessity are considered by firstly an applicant, then a designated person and finally by the Force Authorising Officer, a Detective Superintendent. Also considered are the ECHR aspects which when dealing with 'covert operations' the most frequently engaged are Article 2 (Right to Life), Article 5 (Right to liberty and security), Article 6 (Right to fair trial) and Article 8 (Respect for private and family life).
- 2.3 Undercover work (UC) is dealt with within the Covert Human Intelligence Sources (CHIS) aspect where police establish a relationship or maintain one for a covert purpose, and the relationship is used covertly and information obtained is disclosed covertly.
- 2.4 The Force is inspected every 12 months by the OSC (Office of Surveillance Commissioners) and the most recent inspection was in January 2013. That report was sent to the Chief Constable and there were no areas of concern relating to UC work or indeed any other aspect of the matters under inspection. With regards to matters re

Communications Data (also governed by RIPA 2000), Cambridgeshire is inspected by IOCCO (Interception of Communications Commissioners Office) approximately every 18 months and the last inspection took place in December 2012. Some minor admin issues were highlighted but nothing with regard to the authorisation process. This report is also provided to the Chief Constable.

- 2.5 In addition to the statutory inspections outlined above, every year an internal OPSY (Operational Security) audit is undertaken with regard to payments made to CHIS and on behalf of their management. This is supplemented by a full internal audit to be undertaken by RSM Tenon and this is due in August 2013. This would have been completed in June 2013, however covert assets were being re-located and this would have frustrated a meaningful audit.
- 2.6 The Chief Constable has recently (in line with ACPO guidance) requested that any undercover deployments which have been authorised by the Force, are reviewed with regard to their utility, governance and necessity. It would not be appropriate to disclose the precise details of a) how many such deployments occur in a year or are currently in existence or b) to which investigations they relate, however a rule of thumb which may assist is that in normal circumstances in any given year the number of advanced deployments is in single figures and the number of foundation deployments is in a similar range. To distinguish the two, advanced incorporates deployments where UC operatives are placed within an environment with specific tasking and objectives, whereby foundation covers what is commonly known as “test purchase” type scenarios. In all cases risks are assessed prior to deployment and mitigated to the point of decision as to whether the deployment is viable.
- 2.7 It is not considered appropriate to “circulate” the inspecting bodies reports referred to earlier however if it assists in re-assuring the Board in the governance of this area of policing, the report may be made available by request to the Head of Department who would be happy to explain the content.

3. Neighbourhood Alert Implementation

- 3.1 An implementation has recently been established which is meeting bi-weekly with a view to hastening implementation of Alert. Work is going according to plan and the supplier has confirmed details of the site build. There will be an overarching site which have a more generic feel and which will fit with future plans to engage other partners in Alert. Users visiting this site will be able to select which site they wish to join i.e. Cambs Alert, Neighbourhood Watch or E-Cops. It is hoped that a trial site will be available to view by 22nd July.
- 3.2 A joint communications strategy will be produced for the Constabulary and the OPCC and the agreed milestone plan will be live in August. While the Alert site is planned to be available sooner the deadline for

completion of the tasks associated with the site is the middle of August. The milestone plan includes tasks such as developing and implementing a Neighbourhood Alert Strategy and a communications/marketing strategy, along with sign off protocols and access agreements which will be produced as part of a 'rules and conventions' document.

4. Consultation on Special Constable expenses

- 4.1 The Home Office has launched a consultation exercise on Special Constable expenses and allowances. This consultation forms a key part of the Home Office's strategy to improve the recruitment, retention and recognition of Special Constables.
- 4.2 Views have been requested from all forces on two proposals in the consultation. Firstly, to update existing expenses and allowance rates to recognise more accurately the contribution of Special Constables. Existing guidance was last published in 2006. The second proposal is to remove the requirement for Secretary of State approval of local allowance schemes. This will enable PCCs and their partners to develop allowances that reward the local contribution of Special Constables without involving central government. The consultation will run for eight weeks until 5 September.
- 4.3 The Constabulary has invited relevant senior managers to contribute to the consultation.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Board is invited to note the operational update.