



**To:** Joint Audit Committee

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 5<sup>th</sup> September 2014

## **POCA and Cash Seizure Audit March 2014 Audit UPDATE**

This update is provided following the POCA Action Plan initiated by myself in June 2014.

1. The new "POCA CASH SEIZURE POLICY" was published forcewide on June 30<sup>th</sup> 2014, and was publicised via an Internal CamNet article on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2014. In addition, the related "Crime Associated Property (Seized) and Lost/Found Policy and Procedure" was updated at the same time to ensure consistency between the two documents provide clear direction for all officers and staff.  
All other references to cash seizure in other documents has now been removed from public view, further supporting the above detailed clarity of direction.  
The new policy and procedure has received positive feedback from members of staff from within the ECU and the wider force, and there has been no communication emanating from the publication raising questions around the new procedure.
2. I have diarised the first quarterly audit of the new process to take place w/b 22<sup>nd</sup> September. This will aim to identify any issues in relation to adherence to the policy whilst also providing the first use of the scoring mechanism to identify on-going areas of risk.
3. There remains legacy issues in relation to cash held in many different places, not being registered appropriately and therefore creating a risk. The promotion of the new policy has 'flushed' out a number of these issues which have been flagged up by individuals throughout the force. This has allowed the ECU to take swift action in registering cash properly.
4. The KIMPMS has provided the ECU with real-time information about the seizure of cash, allowing us to take action and advise where necessary, however it has been established that the system of automatic notification does not appear to be working 100% of the time. In addition, the quality of records is inconsistent – for example some officers not recording detail of who the cash was seized from on the electronic system. A meeting has been sought

w/b 22 September with the KIMPMS administrator to highlight the key problems affecting risk and to identify solutions, with the intention of creating an action plan as part of the quarterly audit process.

5. It should be noted that on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2014, the Cambridgeshire ECU will cease to exist, and will become part of the Regional ECU, managed by Bedfordshire Police. It is submitted that the process of banking cash seizures will remain the responsibility of the Cambridgeshire Finance department, however the administration will be overseen by the Regional ECU. This creates a real risk in itself of a disjointed approach. It is therefore important that one individual takes responsibility for the quarterly audit process from December 2014 onwards. My recommendation would be someone from the Treasury area of the Finance Team adopts this responsibility as business as usual.