



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable and Chief Executive

**Date:** 21 September 2017

## **DISASTER VICTIM IDENTIFICATION (DVI) – SECTION 22A AGREEMENT**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update the Business Coordination Board (the “Board”) on the updated collaboration agreement for Disaster Victim Identification (DVI). The DVI collaboration agreement provides a statutory basis for the police function of responding to mass DVI.

### **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1 The Board is recommended to note the signing of the updated DVI Section 22A Agreement under the Police Act 1996 (as amended).
- 2.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) signs the Decision Notice to sign the S22A Agreement to approve the updated Section 22A Agreement for the collaboration of DVI.

### **3. Background**

3.1 The Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioners of Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies collaborated in the provision of a Regional Disaster Victim Identification (DVI) capability managed by a Regional DVI Co-ordinator. The original Agreement was signed on 21<sup>st</sup> September 2012 and commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2012. The agreement expired on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017. Prior to the agreement being signed each Force had a Legal Responsibility under the Civil Contingencies Act to provide a response to mass DVI. This resulted in each Force training hundreds of staff members in body recovery, emergency mortuary and

casualty bureau in addition existing Family Liaison officers needed to be trained in DVI. The Regional Agreement allowed a coordinated response across the Eastern Region to be developed which significantly reduced the numbers trained thus significantly cutting costs. The Agreement allows staff to support each other if and when a DVI Incident occurs across the Eastern Region whereby the local force cannot cope with the size of the incident presented. This model allows staff to be deployed across the region and nationally if required i.e. Essex air crash and the Shoreham air disaster.

**4. Section 22A Agreement under the Police Act 1996**

- 4.1 A Section 22A Agreement enables police forces and local policing bodies as defined in the Police Act 1996 (as amended) and other parties to make an agreement about the discharge of functions by officers and staff where it is in the interests of the efficiency or effectiveness of their own and other police force areas.
- 4.2 As this agreement is due for renewal and the opportunity to review the original agreement has been taken in order to make it consistent with recent S22a agreements. The legal teams in Essex, Herts and Norfolk/Suffolk have developed and agreed the wording of the agreement.

**5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 The Board is recommended to note the signing of the DVI Section 22A Agreement under the Police Act 1996 (as amended).
- 5.2 The Police and Crime Commissioner (“the Commissioner”) signs the Decision Notice to sign the S22A Agreement to approve the updated Section 22A Agreement for the collaboration of DVI.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

<b>Source Documents</b>	
<b>Contact Officers</b>	Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary. Dorothy Gregson, Chief Executive, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner.