

DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY

21 May 2004

(Open for purposes of FOI)

Report by the Chief Constable

NSPIS CASE PREPARATION AND CUSTODY

INTRODUCTION

1. This report updates members of the Police Authority on the NSPIS (National Strategy for Police Information Systems) applications for Case Preparation and for Custody. These have been developed under a central Government funded scheme to deliver national and local business benefits within the Criminal Justice community.

BACKGROUND

2. Delivery of these systems is now in progress on a force by force basis, in support of the Government objective that all forces should be operating the national systems by 2006.

3. Devon and Cornwall Constabulary have been placed in the second of the four force implementation cohorts. NSPIS Case Preparation is planned for implementation in the fourth quarter 2004/05. NSPIS Custody would be implemented as soon as feasible thereafter, subject to Force business requirements being met. The need for duplicated entry of information must be removed, by the development of an automated link from NSPIS Custody into the existing Force Crime system.

DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

4. PITO (Police Information Technology Information Organisation) initiated a development programme for a comprehensive suite of NSPIS computer systems in the 1990's. However there were early difficulties in co-ordinating multiple large-scale developments, particularly in agreeing common data and technical standards. Consequently the delivery of the end products became subject to significant delay.

5. These delays impacted the NSPIS developments within the Criminal Justice arena. Hence, although the NSPIS Case Preparation contract was let in November 1997 and the NSPIS Custody contract was let in April 1998, the software was not delivered until much later. The situation improved considerably after April 2001, when PITO brought both projects under the control of a single integrated project team to aid delivery.

6. Both of the NSPIS Criminal Justice applications have finally emerged from this long gestation period as robust and modern systems, delivering major business benefits. NSPIS Case Preparation is live within nine forces, including an implementation of the technologically updated "Thin Client" version (which will be the product delivered to Devon and Cornwall Constabulary). NSPIS Custody is in live use within three forces.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS AND ASSISTANCE

7. PITO identify implementation of these systems as meeting some of their key objectives. Consequently significant financial and staff resource is made available to forces to assist successful implementation.

8. In financial terms the value of the direct support to Devon and Cornwall Constabulary is very substantial. A sum of £736,000 is to be made directly available to the Force to meet implementation costs associated with NSPIS Case Preparation. This funding covers provision of all software, meeting supplier resource charges during implementation, the acquisition of new terminals and scanners (to a limit of £63,000), and maintenance / support charges until the end of 2005/06. In addition PITO will directly procure for the Constabulary the required server hardware to operate the application (exact financial value not known, as the transaction is directly between PITO and the supplier).

9. The costs estimated at £243,000 to be met directly by the Constabulary are within the existing budget for 2004/05 approved by the Police Authority, and comprise charges for accommodation, training, and staff secondment to the project.

10. Resources from a regionally based PITO NSPIS implementation team will assist planning and testing of the implementation. In addition a central PITO business benefit realisation team will be available to the Constabulary to advise on the identification, achievement and measurement of business benefits.

11. PITO have produced a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the implementation of NSPIS Case Preparation within Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. A copy of the MoU is available to members of the Police Authority on request. A separate MoU will be produced later for NSPIS Custody, when the Force and PITO have reached agreement on an implementation approach for that system

12. This Memorandum of Understanding approach is a new and helpful means of clarifying responsibilities between the parties. Acceptance of the MoU does not constitute a legally binding agreement, but signature is a requirement before Government funding, as set out in the document, is released to the Constabulary.

RECOMMENDATION

13. The Police Authority is asked to approve agreement and signature of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Implementation of NSPIS Case Preparation between PITO and Devon and Cornwall Constabulary.

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