

9 December 2024

Dear Colleagues

Force Analytical and AI Tools for Multiple Data Sets

This joint letter aims to provide clarity on an interim NPCC position on data integration tools that forces are either considering procuring or are in the process of testing for the purpose of improving data analytics, investigative, intelligence gathering and productivity processes. We recognise that the current national eco-system is complex with a variety of stakeholders across DDaT, SICC, PDS and the Home Office providing support or advice on this type of technology. This letter seeks to address this point and provide clarity on the direction of travel for data integration tools and the application of generative, decision support and predictive AI technologies within them.

As you will be aware from the DDaTCC briefing at Chief Constables' Council in September, NDAB (National Data and Analytics Board) is now finalising the project initiation document for a national Data and Analytics Office based within the NPCC. This will build on the work of the CDAP (Centre for Data and Analytics Programme) in progressing opportunities for enhanced capabilities to integrate and analyse data for both operational and organisational purposes (such as the ANPR Find and Profile tool and the Prometheus pilot). T/DCC Chris Todd and Aimee Smith will oversee this new capability for policing, in their roles as joint chairs of NDAB.

Significant advances have been made in recent years in the analytical tooling available to policing and we are aware of some interesting force pilots that are currently underway at a local and regional level. We are keen to ensure that these are tested and evaluated effectively and are in the process of reaching out to partners to support the testing of these types of technologies. Forces have invested heavily in their cloud infrastructure with the ability to run advanced data analytics locally. We are keen to understand how these types of solutions work within this investment, ensuring appropriate data standards, technology standards and security standards (including Secured by Design), and enable interoperability of core data sets. It is also important to ensure that these solutions are procured and adopted appropriately to ensure value for money, deliver benefit across policing and meet lawful and ethical standards associated with data, and in particular personal data.

NDAB will be undertaking a landscape review in early 2025 to identify best practice in emerging analytic platforms across Forces, as well as potential economies of scale, working with the early findings of the COPs landscape review. It is important for us to understand where we might support forces on behalf of the DDaTCC, SICC and OPCS moving forwards. ****S31(1)**** We have also asked BLC and PDS technical and cyber services to offer support in progressing the initiative.

These types of technologies, especially when they integrate generative AI technologies within them, are particularly challenging to evaluate. We hope to fill this gap rapidly so we can continue to support forces with innovating and then collectively between DDaTCC and SICC support that innovation to scale rapidly. We do not want to delay progress unnecessarily, but this is a particularly complex area with overlapping technologies and competing demands. It is essential that we get this right for all forces and all our

communities. The impact of getting it wrong is significant and could undermine the trust and confidence in our service. We will also be releasing a new standard for governance of data integration and analytical tools in early 2025, which will provide guidance for all forces. As you are also aware, the NPCC AI portfolio is working with PROBable futures to deliver a consistent approach to the assessment of AI technologies, building on the previously agreed NPCC AI covenant. This is currently out for consultation, and we would welcome feedback from strategic leaders as well as the operational staff who will be using this to assess new or in use AI technologies. It is essential that we develop some consistency across data analytics and the use of AI tools. The checklist forms a big part of this. If your teams have any views can they please complete the following [survey](#).

We request that for any programmes you have in force or are looking to instigate in the next year relating to analytical tools for multiple data sets, you make contact with the NDAB team at ****S31(1)**** [@npsc.police.uk](mailto:npsc.police.uk) so that we can collectively look to work through the commissioning process for national support across a better aligned and informed data landscape. We will work with the HO to deliver activity in Q4. We will be working with the HO who is engaging across government to better understand the procurement approach, appropriate levels of governance, evaluation of bias and assessments of benefits that have taken place in cases where deployment of these tools in the public sector are more advanced than in policing. They are also looking closely at whether there is a role for central government funding to support the testing and adoption of this sort of tooling in order to deliver the Government's Safer Streets mission.

Regards

****S40(2)****

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****S40(2)****

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****S40(2)****

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