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04/02/2026

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST REFERENCE NUMBER: 2740/2026

Thank you for your request for information regarding NABIS, which has now been considered.

Applicant Question:

1. Any mention and relevant section and supporting papers referencing NABIS at NPCC Chief Constables' Council (CCC) – September 2025,
2. Any further submissions to Chief Constables' Council referencing NABIS and supporting papers.

NPCC Response:

1. The NPCC does hold recorded information captured by part one of your request.

I have extracted the following information from the minutes of CCC, September 2025:

NABIS 2 Year Funding 26-27 and Year 3 Funding 2027-28

Decision: To be discussed in session 4.

Session 4: NABIS 2 Year Funding 2026-27 and Year 3 Funding 27-28 (Regional Paper)

Overview:

- The Lead for Professional Standards & Ethics presented a funding proposal for the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS).
- Chiefs were reminded of their prior agreement to a 3% uplift, prompting efforts to reduce future costs
- The Lead noted a lack of previous scrutiny by senior officers on the service's design, and presented key findings from the current project.

Key Points:

- NABIS operates with fewer staff than originally planned; it achieved efficiencies by closing one office and relocating staff
- Service levels are unchanged, with Performance Indicators emphasising speed and reliability
- The paper covers the transition, a new case management system, reporting, and intelligence flows
- Assessment processes and personnel remain consistent
- Recruitment challenges for hub experts are addressed by a proposed internal career pathway
- Despite rising costs (e.g. Met bill) the service remains effective and could be more efficient under its current structure
- Oversight is being provided through the Finance Committee.

Chiefs thanked the Lead for their work, noting the project as a valuable case study for cost reduction in other areas.

Decision: Chiefs supported the NABIS funding proposal as outlined in the paper.

2. The NPCC does not hold recorded information captured by part two of your request.

NABIS was not recorded as a Agenda Item at CCC, December 2025.

Yours sincerely
Freedom of Information Officer & Decision Maker

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COMPLAINT RIGHTS

Internal Review

Any request for an internal review will be acknowledged and responded to, based on the specific wording of your initial request only.

We ask that any rationale to request an internal review, does not include any requests for new information and ask that these be submitted by separate email. We will acknowledge as a new request and may aggregate to your initial request in compliance with the legislation.

If you are dissatisfied with the response you have been provided with in compliance with the Freedom of Information legislation, you can lodge a complaint with NPCC to have the decision reviewed within 40 working days of the date of this response.

The handling of your request will be looked at by someone independent of the original decision and a fresh response provided.

It would be helpful, if requesting a review, for you to articulate in detail the reasons you are not satisfied with this reply.

If you would like to request a review, please write or send an email to NPCC Freedom of Information, c/o PO Box 481, Fareham, Hampshire, PO14 9FS.

Annex A

Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires the NPCC, when refusing to provide information by way of exemption in question and (c) states why the exemption applies. In accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 this letter acts as a refusal notice to those aspects of your request.

Legislation – Section 16

- (1) It shall be the duty of a public authority to provide advice and assistance, so far as it would be reasonable to expect the authority to do so, to persons who propose to make, or have made, requests for information to it.