

## Proposal - to extend VIIDO units throughout the all 32 BOCU

### 1. Executive Summary

- For every 1000 cameras in London, less than one crime is solved per year
  - CCTV can detect crime, but it must be used in a systematic end-to-end manner (see below) to ensure crime reduction and positive CJ outcomes.
  - Research has shown that the Op Javelin approach can increase detections for robbery / burglary & other offences by up to 20% at a fraction of the cost of DNA
  - Use of VIIDO's has increased CCTV providers' compliance and confidence
  - Op Javelin can stop the erosion of public confidence in CCTV
  - A major issue is lack of supervision regarding conversion of identified images to detections (of the 45 suspects not arrested in November, 93% were known to police).
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- The systems, ownership and supervision approach will minimise the risk to the organisation through appropriate and timely investigation, compliant with CPIA.
  - 70% of footage is now digital – it is unfair for untrained front-line staff to be held accountable for the complex task of downloading from hard drives
  - <sup>1</sup>
  - It is time to recognise that use of CCTV is the Third Forensic discipline

### 2. Current state of the Project

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<sup>3</sup>  The Met Circulation Unit (MetCU) is established and circulates images in a structured three-phase manner, working in partnership with the media, CrimeWatch and CrimeStoppers.

### 3. Why VIIDO's should be rolled out to all boroughs

More effective use of CCTV images will support the new MPS Key Objectives (detailed evidence can be presented) and there are numerous other benefits:

- The quality of investigation is improved and investigators' time is saved
- Early guilty pleas can be obtained using CCTV evidence early in the interview
- Assistance for Counter Terrorism, major investigations & critical incidents

Improved CCTV investigation can significantly assist the public confidence target. The public have a high expectation of CCTV and are frequently told they are captured on camera three hundred times per day. £500 million has been spent by the Government on cameras. Despite this, in 2008 less than 1000 crimes were solved using CCTV, despite there being in excess of one million cameras in London.

### 4. How to make CCTV produce detections – the Ten Point CCTV Plan

Evidence from Op Emerald shows that relying on OICs to gather CCTV is far less effective than the retrieval by VIIDO's. To make CCTV work post-incident, it requires the following:

1. Dedicated team - VIIDO – less than 1% of borough staff
2. Performance culture & end-to-end use of images
3. Partnership with all CCTV providers
4. Systematic identification process (MetCU)
5. Strong supervision of dockets
6. Police officers trained to use CCTV evidence
7. Communication strategy (see below)
8. Lawyers trained to use images
9. Courts able to play footage
10. Technology fit for purpose – providing this alone, does not work

### 5. MetCU & Database

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## 6. Bus CCTV

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## 7. Communication Strategy

Release of CCTV images into the public domain is vital, for the following reasons:

- To give the public confidence that CCTV is being used to target criminals
- To make criminals see that being caught on CCTV has a consequence
- To obtain evidence, where offenders cut out their images from newspapers

## 8. Court & CJU Issues

- VIIDOs can provide footage in a viewable format to encourage guilty pleas
- 23% of VIIDO work is on post charge cases, reducing cracked and ineffective trials

## 9. Strategic Issues

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- Potential change of government - The Conservatives are not CCTV friendly - we need to start showing that we are targeting serious crime.
- FOI Act requests - Already councils are using FOIA requests to assess the effectiveness of their CCTV (they need to justify updating old systems & replacing with digital). Without Op Javelin systems, this data cannot be provided.
- National body for CCTV Registration and Standards – This was announced in 2008 by the Minister for Policing, Vernon Coaker MP.
- Home Office / ACPO are promoting mapping of CCTV – VIIDOs can greatly assist as they have ownership and need to know location of cameras for their daily work
- Olympics – the database would assist security (£600 million budget)
- Economic downturn – CCTV can target acquisitive crime

## 11. What is required

- ACPO support and independent review of project

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## 12. Conclusion

The improvement of CCTV retrieval and identification will improve performance in priority crime and detections.<sup>9</sup>

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Furthermore, the marketing of our success will help improve community confidence. Professor<sup>11</sup> an expert on CCTV, has stated "every major city in the world should copy these systems". Op Javelin has a world-wide reputation and is seen as best practice in UK, with the support of HOSDB, NPJA and the ACPO lead on CCTV, DCC Gerrard.

**To be added – Federation view**

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MPS FOIA Disclosure