

Chief Constables' Council

Title: Operation Sourberry Forensic Market Place Critical Incident Report

Agenda Item: July CCC Meeting

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Attachments @ para	
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1. FORENSICS SCIENCE MARKET PLACE – CRITICAL INCIDENT REVIEW REPORT

- 1.1. As the National Policing lead for Forensics and also as the Platinum Group Chair stood up in response to Operation Sourberry – this briefing is to advise of the conclusion of the lessons learnt report regarding the Cyber Attack on Eurofins entitled Forensics Science Market Place Critical Incident Review Report, which covers Operation Sourberry and previous incidents affecting the provision of police forensics seeking agreement to publish the report and recommendations.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. On Sunday 2nd June 2019, Eurofins Scientific, the largest provider of forensic science services to UK law enforcement, suffered a cyber-attack, which prevented it from providing any forensic science services to law enforcement agencies across the UK for a period of 8 weeks.
- 2.2. This attack was the fifth critical incident to affect the provision of forensics services to policing in a three year period.

- 2.3. ****S43 Commercial Interests****



- 2.4. As the attack progressed it became clear the management of the situation was not confined to the NPCC Forensics Market Place Portfolio Sub Group, but also had a considerable impact on the CJS, and Information Security aspect leading to the need to stand up additional Gold Groups.
- 2.5. ACC Paul Gibson took lead on the Marketplace Gold and I am grateful to CC Jo Farrell for leading on the CJS Gold Group and Commissioner Ian Dyson for leading on the Information Security Gold Group, in line with their NPCC Portfolio responsibilities.
- 2.6. I also want to highlight the importance of the role that the Forensics Capability Network Commercial Team took in providing the central co-ordination for all activity to ensure that all forces had access to provision of forensics services and support for Forces in dealing with the Information Commissioner.
- 2.7. Over an eight week period the FCN took control of all forensics provision redirecting the work of the 33 forces impacted by the Eurofins cyber-attack, ensuring a fair and proportionate approach to allocating caps and quotas to forces.
- 2.8. Following the attack a comprehensive assurance process across all key stakeholder groups, including NCSC, the Forensic Science Regulator, the ICO, the CPS, Forces and PCCs was developed to ensure Eurofins could return to business in a managed approach with confidence that there had been no impact on the integrity of forensics outcomes on historic cases, work in progress and submissions awaiting processing.
- 2.9. Although business has returned to normal, caps and quotas remain in place, co-ordinated by the FCN for drugs and toxicology, services where market capacity was already constrained due to Operation Kettledrum (Randox).

3. Lessons Learnt

3.1 Forensic Market Place Critical Incident Report

- 3.1.1 Following the successful return of Eurofins to “Business as Usual”, I commissioned a lessons learnt exercise across all key stakeholders and interested parties as outlined in section 2.8.
- 3.1.2 The output of this activity is the Forensic Market Place Critical Incident Report, which is attached with this submission. A redacted version of the report has also been developed for public release.
- 3.1.3 The report contained 37 recommendations for improvements to critical incident management and 26 recommendations for improving the forensic science market, all of which are detailed in Appendix A, which accompanies this paper
- 3.1.4 The FCN are developing a comprehensive action plan to address all of the recommendations which will be published at the end of June 2020.

3.2 Approval Of The Coordination Committee

- 3.2.1 Approved via the Crime Operations Coordination Committee meeting.

3.3 Statement/Details Of Cost Or Resource Implications

3.3.1 **S43 Commercial Interests**

4 RECOMMENDATION

- 4.1 That the Forensic Market Place Critical Incident Report is acknowledged by this Committee.
- 4.2 That the Recommendations are noted.
- 4.3 That the development and publication of an action plan by the end of June 2020 the Forensic Capability Network is acknowledged.

5 DECISIONS REQUIRED

- 5.1 Approval of the publication of a redacted version of the Forensic Market Place Critical Incident Report.

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