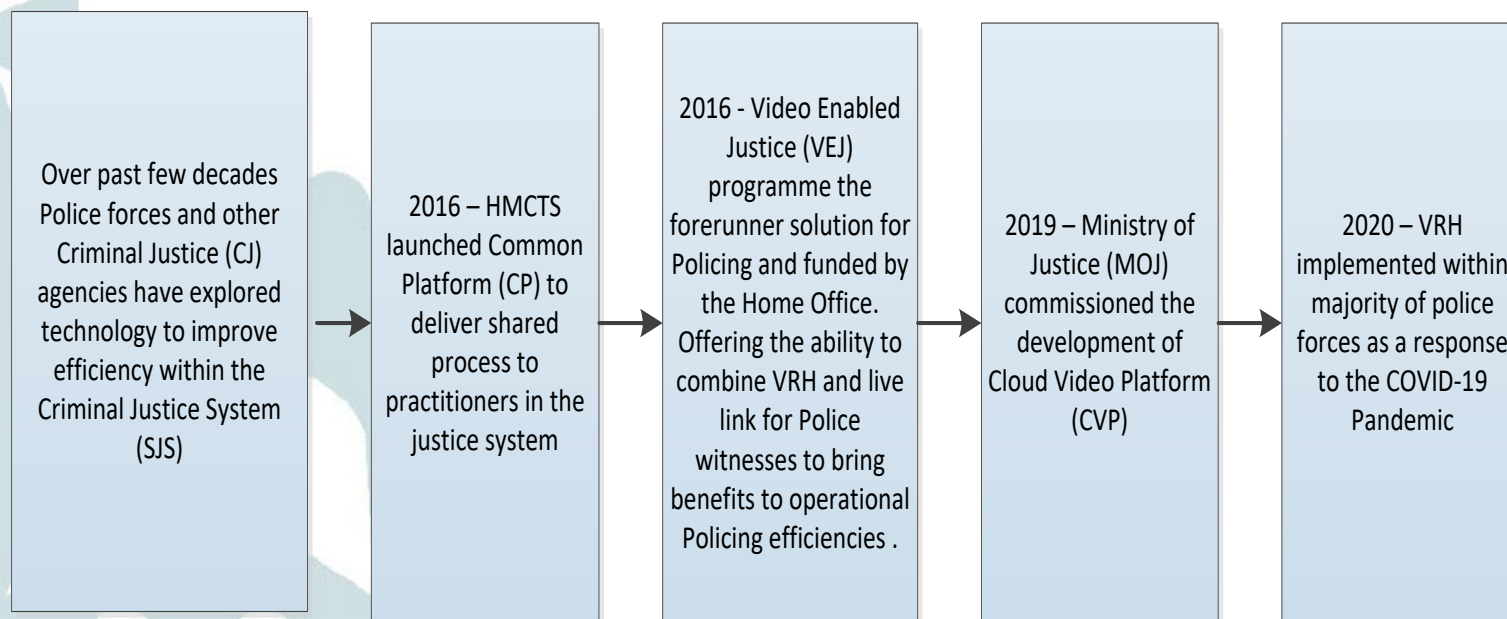


**CJCC Briefing Paper –**  
***Connecting Policing to the***  
***Criminal Justice network***  
***8<sup>th</sup> October 2020***

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**October 2020**

# The Journey



# Impact of VRH/CVP

- **Implementation Approach**
- **Cost / Resources**
- **PECS / Legal Powers**
- **Transfer of Risk and APP requirements**
- **Custody Capacity and Connectivity**
- **Hidden Demand and Costs**
- **Partnership Issues**

# Benefits / Opportunities

- HMCTS intend to carry out more of their Court and Tribunal work by video;
- It may no longer be considered 'business as usual' to attend Court;
- Specialisation of courts may mean that physical court rooms will be in different locations, which may be further from police facilities than is currently the case
- Out of Hours applications dealt with outside of a physical court room;
- CJS partners may appear by video and mechanisms for consulting with those partners may be video based;
- The most efficient locations for police estate may not necessarily geographically concur with that of the courts, leading to increased travelling;
- The potential use of video for victims and witnesses to provide access to Courts
- Connectivity into courts will become easier and cheaper

# Continuing with VRH?

For policing to continue to support the CJS with the use of video technology on a long-term basis, several key issues would need to be resolved to create a workable and sustainable option.

- **Costs** - *These are substantial costs and realignment of funding and / or additional funding would be required to consider this feasible.*
- **Infrastructure / IT / Estate** - *Custody facilities and IT require investment*
- **Resourcing** - *The use of overtime and Officers is unsustainable*
- **Legislative changes** - *To allow alternative resourcing options*
- **Organisational change** - *The national police officer uplift programme would need to be factored into any resource modelling based on forecasts of increased demand.*

# Recommendations

1. Support VRH where possible until December 2020 at which point forces should return to pre-COVID arrangements. This will provide a reasonable period for HMCTS to implement and gain traction with their national recovery plan.
2. Police witness testimony via technology enabled live link should be the long-term default position for policing.
3. Policing should support the use of live link for civilian witnesses, although it is for HMCTS to lead and implement, not policing.

**There is a compelling case for the wider use of video within policing by exploiting the opportunities to reduce inefficiencies and participate in CJS reform.**

# Recommendations

- ✓ A capital injection of £10.5m for policing to provide police custody facilities;
- ✓ An investment of £27.84m per annum to cover policing resources for VRH, or deployment of the PECS through legislative changes.
- ✓ Development of the technology to support video enabled processes which removes inefficiencies and reduces demand on policing e.g. a scheduling tool to effectively manage the planning, preparation and communication activities required for a VRH, (As developed by the VEJ programme (GTL) which automates tasks and tracks Management Information (MI));
- ✓ Development of effective business processes to support video enabled technology, mitigate risk, remove inefficiencies and operationalise the lessons learnt from the VEJ programme.
- ✓ It is critical HMCTS increase remand court capacity / throughput to minimise custody times and prevent lockouts; conduct hearings earlier and/or extending HMPS reception times.