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This circular may be of interest to Chief Officers and others responsible for Firearms Policy or Training and Command of Operations requiring the deployment of armed officers, and may be located on College of Policing Knowledge Hub. Disclosure of the contents of this document with respect to the Freedom of Information Act should only be considered following consultation with the National Armed Policing Secretariat

Dear Force Firearms Lead,

I write to provide a brief update in respect of the proposal for the national CTSFO network to provide a non-CT dynamic search (DS) capability on behalf of all forces in England and Wales (outside London).

As you will be aware the potential for the CTSFO network to provide this capability on behalf of all forces has been under consideration for some time, most recently through the now concluded Specialist Capabilities Programme (SCP).

Since the conclusion of the SCP at the end of March 2020, these proposals have been accelerated and further detail has been developed, particularly in respect of the tasking and coordinating, command and control and charging models that would apply. Consequently the NPCC Counter Terrorism Coordinating Committee (CTCC), which includes the chiefs of all regions CT lead forces, agreed to the introduction of this service by the CTSFO network in June 2020, subject to ratification at Chiefs Council. The proposal was submitted to Chiefs Council in July 2020. I have attached the paper which went to CTCC and Chiefs Council, together with a covering letter (dated 9th July) to all Chiefs from myself and AC Neil Basu.

Following discussions at Chiefs Council in July it was agreed that it would be brought back for final ratification at the next Council meeting in October 2020, allowing chiefs more time to consider the offer. I therefore thought it would be helpful to write to you as the chief officer leads for armed policing, so that you can support your chief in their considerations ahead of Council in October.

I would now encourage you and your teams to study the detail of the proposal contained within the attached paper. It is important to note that once ratified, this will be an offer to forces. Clearly there can be no mandate to a force that they must relinquish any existent capability. However in considering the offer, you should take into consideration the requirements identified through your Armed Policing Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment (APSTRA) and how you best discharge your responsibilities in protecting the public, ensuring the most capable and best equipped resources are available to mitigate risks and are compliant with the principles of best value.

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It is important to note that the attached documentation proposed a 'go live' date of 1st September 2020. However I have made the decision to defer the 'go live' date until after the final ratification by Chiefs Council. I will therefore write to you again with a new date for implementation in due course. At that stage I will be seeking an indication from you as to the likelihood your force will wish to take up the offer.

In the interim if you have any questions or require further detail, please contact Mr Richard Thomas, the Head of Specialist and Counter Terrorism Armed Policing Capabilities at [S31 Law Enforcement](#)

I have copied this letter to your force operational lead for armed policing.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Simon Chesterman". The signature is written in a cursive style with a period at the end.

Simon Chesterman QPM
NPCC National Armed Policing Portfolio Lead