

From: Meagan Mirza
Sent: 08 September 2010 15:16
To: Policy Delivery Advice; Lyn Wibberley; Thomas Oppe
Cc: Liam Duncan; Judith Jones
Subject: Policy Advice rec'd re Crime Mapping Postcodes 20100908

Thanks for this Iain. Very helpful. It is trying to balance DP concerns with what would be considered suitable for disclosure under FOI which is difficult but this is useful.

Meagan

Meagan Mirza Group Manager - Public Security Group

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From: Policy Delivery Advice
Sent: 08 September 2010 14:57
To: Meagan Mirza; Policy Delivery Advice; Lyn Wibberley; Thomas Oppe
Cc: Liam Duncan; Judith Jones
Subject: RE: Policy Delivery - advice request form

Meagan,

I think your suggested approach is very much along the right lines.

There is considerable debate within the office about this, and some tension between FoI and DP requirements, particularly in the context of crime-mapping and the release of statistics about criminality.

We do not have a settled office view yet, but should be doing some detailed work on this in the short / medium term.

However, here are some pointers that you could use:

- We would always favour the use of partial postcodes over full ones, given the risk of identifying individuals - albeit, in context, the risk might be small.
- Full post codes can be personal data, the most certain example being properties with a single occupant and a unique postcode. Where a postcode is personal data, and the data controller may or may not know this, depending on the other information resources available to it, the DPA's test of 'necessity' could not be satisfied where partial postcodes (not personal data) could be used as an alternative to full ones (could be personal data and in some cases will be).
- We cannot give the HO as definitive an answer as it might perhaps like. The postcodes issue itself can be complex, depending on numbers of properties sharing a postcode and the properties' occupants. However, I understand that 'brick' arrangements have been developed for use in medical research and other contexts that are intended to facilitate research (and presumably crime-mapping too) whilst minimising the risk of individuals being identified. HO should be encouraged to investigate these techniques.
- The other main problem is one of assessing risk / sensitivity. I can certainly see why someone who was the victim, or conceivably the perpetrator of, or a witness to, a 'sensitive' crime should not be identified with a particular property - even a multiple inhabitant one. However, what if an individual is only the victim of a car-crime?
- We cannot be expected to give definitive yes / no answers based on the nature /

sensitivity of the crime, the risk to the people involved and the 'maths' pertaining to postcodes, properties and people. It is for the Home Office to do the research and to justify its use of full postcodes over partial ones - it may well be able to do this.

- At this stage it is also for the HO to evaluate the competing public interests of public access to information about criminality on the one hand, and the protection of individuals who have been the victims of crime, or have been involved in it, on the other.

Be careful, as I have said, about FoI issues - we have argued very hard against police forces, in particular, that have taken an overly conservative approach to the release of crime stats. We need to be careful not to derail our FoI lines by putting forward overly restrictive DP ones.

Hope of use.

Iain

Iain Bourne Group Manager - Policy Delivery

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T. 01625 545325 www.ico.gov.uk

From: Meagan Mirza
Sent: 08 September 2010 12:59
To: Policy Delivery Advice
Cc: Liam Duncan; Judith Jones
Subject: Policy Delivery - advice request form
Importance: High

Policy Delivery - advice request form

The role of Policy Delivery is to provide advice on novel or complex issues where existing lines to take may need clarifying, amending or new ones created altogether.

Once your form is submitted you will receive a response within 15 working days. If it is not possible to provide a full response within 15 working days an initial response will be given together with an estimate of the date by which a full response should be completed.

Name:...Meagan Mirza..... **CMEH Reference (if applicable):**.....

Date Requested: 8/9/2010.....

1. What kind of issue is it?	DPA	PECR	FOIA	EIR	Hybrid (if so, please state below e.g. Yes - DP / FOI)	Legal
Please indicate by stating "Yes".					Yes - DP/FOI	

1. What do you need advice on?

I am seeking advice on whether we have a line to take (either on the FOI or DP side) about the risk of identification of individuals through post code level data or small scale statistics. I'm not sure if there are any FOI cases on the issue but I understand that there was a recent case in Scotland in relation to potential identification of patients in relation to health data and we've also provided advice, on the DP side, to organisations on anonymisation through use of partial postcodes. Anything would be helpful to expand on our concerns about post code level data being displayed in relation to crimes (see below).

I have flagged this as urgent as the proposals need to be put before the Minister next Thursday 16th and I need to get an outline to the Home Office either today or tomorrow.

2. Please give us any relevant background and facts.

The Home Office are seeking our views on their crime mapping proposals. They are proposing to use the website <http://maps.police.uk/> to display, at street level, where a crime has been committed and the type of crime committed. Some Forces are already using 'point data mapping' however the proposal is that this will be rolled out nationally in January 2011 using the maps.police.uk site as the portal for forces to upload information to. DPP (Phil Jones and Liam) were involved with this issue some time ago and outlined our concerns in relation to risks of identification of innocent victims, witnesses and vulnerable offenders. I reiterated these concerns in a meeting I had with the Home Office on Monday which are:-

Risks of identification of victims of serious sexual offences, domestic violence, race related attacks which should be treated more sensitively – this may mean banding together some crimes to minimise the risk of identification. For example, one police force puts all these offences under one category of 'most serious violent crimes'. We've also said that if the area breakdown is based on postcode then they need to be aware of the risks associated with this ie that a postcode can in some cases relate to an individual building or school or indeed to a house in a rural area and that they may need to consider joining postcode areas together for some offences. We've also said that they need to look at the timescales for the data ie if they are uploading monthly then if there was only one most serious violent crime in that particular month that could lead to identification also. We therefore asked them to consider expanding the timescale in those cases.

3. Is there anything else we need to know? (e.g. the name(s) and location (s) of any documentation relevant to this request)

There are no relevant documents apart from some letters from 2008/09 outlining our concerns both to the Home Office and to some individual forces. Having spoken to the Home Office on Monday they seem to be aware of the data protection issues although hadn't considered the timescale point (above).

TO BE COMPLETED BY MEMBERS OF POLICY DELIVERY

Name:..... **Date of Response:**.....

4. Advice given

From: Jonathan Bamford
Sent: 14 September 2010 14:58
To: Meagan Mirza; Liam Duncan; Judith Jones
Subject: Email from JB Comments on Crime Mapping response to HO 20100914

Meagan,

I am happy with this. They understand the principles that are important to us. It's now a question of how well these are achieved in practice. I am not certain we can get anything better out of them on the latter.

Jonathan

Jonathan Bamford Head of Strategic Liaison

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From: Meagan Mirza
Sent: 14 September 2010 14:46
To: Jonathan Bamford; Liam Duncan; Judith Jones
Subject: FW: Crime mapping - Urgent for Today
Importance: High

Jonathan/Liam/Judith

The Home Office have come back to provide some further detail on their proposals for point mapping.

I have drafted a response below and I would be really grateful if you could get your comments to me by close of play today so that I can return it to Rebecca first thing in the morning. Apologies for the tight timescale but she wants to get this to the Minister tomorrow. Overall, they have taken on board the concerns that we raised and are keen to continue to liaise with us as this develops.

Rebecca

Thank you for providing the further detail which is helpful to understand how it will work in practice. It is reassuring to see that the offences are being combined to minimise the risk of individuals being identified particularly those individuals who are the victims of or who witness those sensitive crimes such as sexual offences/domestic violence/race related crime. You have explained that the data will be provided by forces once a month. I note that this may become more frequent and that you would discuss any proposed changes with us and we welcome this. On the point of data being uploaded monthly, I would just reiterate the concern I raised previously in that if for example one rape was reported in one month in a particular area then it may be that having only reported that month's data will increase the potential of identifying the individual involved and consideration will need to be given to minimising the risk of identification in those or similar circumstances.

We are reassured that data will be published in a way that ensures the location

of a crime cannot be narrowed down to fewer than eight properties. I note the two options that you've detailed and both appear to resolve the issue of those circumstances when a postcode relates to an individual building or school or in rural areas where there may only be a couple of residences within a postcode. It is also reassuring that crimes that take place in a park, forest or between motorway junctions will be assigned to the centre point of that landmark.

Overall, the proposals do appear to minimise the risk of identification of individuals however, as I mentioned previously, we would still need to consider any complaints that we may receive from individuals who may be affected by a disclosure.

I hope this helps but please let me know if you need any further information.

Regards
Meagan

Meagan Mirza Group Manager - Public Security Group

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From: Bradfield Rebecca [mailto:Rebecca.Bradfield@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk]
Sent: 14 September 2010 13:52
To: Meagan Mirza
Cc: Jaspert Gus; Thompson Adam
Subject: RE: Crime mapping

Meagan

Thanks for your note below and a useful conversation yesterday. As promised, please find below a summary of our emerging solution to the delivery of crime data at a level at which the public can see what is happening on their streets. As discussed, I will be putting advice to the Minister on this issue later in the week (hopefully tomorrow) and it would be incredibly helpful to be able to provide an indication of the ICO's views on the proposed approach.

What data?

You have explained the ICO's potential concerns around the publication of more granular data on crime such as sexual offences or domestic violence which would require a higher threshold to safeguard the personal privacy of victims and any witnesses. You suggested that potentially sensitive offences should be combined to minimise the risk of identification.

Taking this into consideration, it is our intention to provide the following data to a more granular level:

- Burglary (which includes burglary in a dwelling, aggravated burglary in a dwelling, burglary in a building other than a dwelling and aggravated burglary in a building other than a dwelling)
- Robbery (which includes robbery of personal property and theft from a person)
- Vehicle crime (which includes theft from a vehicle, and theft of a vehicle, but excludes interfering with a motor vehicle)
- Violence (which includes all categories of violence against the person but does not include possession of firearms offences)
- All Crimes (reported under a single category)

- ASB (includes the number of reports of anti-social behaviour that are made to the police, and where possible, to other partners. ASB in this context means all incidents of ASB as defined within the National Standard for Incident Recording).

These are the same categories as currently used on the national Crime Mapping website.

How often?

You have explained the need to consider the time scale for the display of information. The current proposal is for forces to provide this data once a month. We may work with forces to increase the frequency of this data in the future but we recognise the need to discuss any proposed changes with you.

How presented?

You have been clear that the ICO's primary concern with 'point data mapping' is the risk of identifying individuals (innocent victims, witnesses or vulnerable offenders) and have suggested that thought should be given to removing postcodes which relate to a few homes or combining them with a neighbouring postcode which contains more houses to minimise the risk of identifying individuals. As explained previously, Minister's fully agree with the need to safeguard the identity of individuals.

We are therefore proposing to release only anonymised crime data into the public domain. Data will be published in such a way that ensures the location of a crime can not be narrowed down to fewer than eight properties. This will be achieved by either:

Option A) Approximating crime location to the centre point of the postcode centroid that a crime took place in (e.g SG17 5BA). If this postcode contains less than 8 properties, it will be combined with the nearest postcode area containing eight properties or more.

Option B) Approximating crime location to the nearest street containing 8 or more properties.

For both options, if a crime takes place in a location such as a park, forest or between motorway junctions it will be assigned to the centre point of that landmark.

As discussed earlier, this is an emerging solution that has not yet been discussed with Ministers. I'd therefore appreciate it if you could keep any further circulation of this e-mail within the ICO. I'd be really grateful for your thoughts on the above. As always, I'd be very happy to discuss anything with you if helpful.

Kind regards

Rebecca

-----Original Message-----

From: Meagan Mirza [mailto:Meagan.Mirza@ico.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 10 September 2010 9:52 AM

To: Bradfield Rebecca

Cc: Judith Jones; Jonathan Bamford; Liam Duncan

Subject: Crime mapping

Rebecca

We agreed that I would expand on some of the concerns which I mentioned when we met on Monday but if there is anything further you need please contact me. Apologies for the delay getting this to you.

The main data protection concern with 'point data mapping' is the risk of identifying individuals (innocent victims, witnesses or vulnerable offenders) or indeed the risk of disclosure of sensitive personal information about those individuals if they have been the victim of a racially motivated crime for example. It is feasible that indicating on a street the location of a crime (sensitive or otherwise) could identify the individual or the family concerned.

As we also discussed, due to the way postcodes are allocated it can be the case that a postcode will relate to a single building (or residence) or indeed a school. Consideration will therefore need to be given to postcodes which relate to a few homes being removed or combined with a neighbouring postcode which contains more houses to minimise the risk of identifying individuals. I understand that 'brick' arrangements have been developed in respect of medical research which minimise the risks of individuals being identified and it may be worth considering these although I appreciate you are working to a tight timescale with this. We understand that some police forces such as the MPS have limited reporting on crimes such as theft/burglary of motor vehicle crimes to lower super output areas which contain a minimum of 400 dwellings (approximately 3 streets).

I understand that you are still considering the type of crimes that will be flagged (or pin pointed). We discussed those crimes such as sexual offences or domestic violence which require a higher threshold to safeguard the personal privacy of victims and any witnesses. I understand that Hampshire have combined potentially sensitive offences together to ensure minimised risk of identification.

Lastly, you will need to consider the time scale for the display of information as, for example, data covering one month for some sensitive crimes could indeed also lead to identification particularly if there has only been a small number of a particular type of crime in an area or on a street for example.

As I mentioned, the ICO wouldn't be able to endorse any particular model however we could comment more generally if we considered that there appeared to be appropriate safeguards in place to minimise the risk of identification of individuals. We would however need to consider any complaints that we may receive from individuals who may be affected by the disclosure of this information.

If you do need anything further please contact me.

Regards
Meagan

Meagan Mirza Group Manager - Public Security Group

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From: Meagan Mirza
Sent: 14 September 2010 14:56
To: Iain Bourne
Subject: Draft to PD to ok prior to sending to HO 20100914
Importance: High

Iain

Could you run your eyes over this and let me know if you have any comments. This is following on from the advice you helpfully provided earlier on in the week.

Thanks
Meagan

Meagan Mirza Group Manager - Public Security Group

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Please consider the environment before printing this email

From: Meagan Mirza
Sent: 14 September 2010 14:46
To: Jonathan Bamford; Liam Duncan; Judith Jones
Subject: FW: Crime mapping - Urgent for Today
Importance: High

Jonathan/Liam/Judith

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I have drafted a response below and I would be really grateful if you could get your comments to me by close of play today so that I can return it to Rebecca first thing in the morning. Apologies for the tight timescale but she wants to get this to the Minister tomorrow. Overall, they have taken on board the concerns that we raised and are keen to continue to liaise with us as this develops.

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From: Bradfield Rebecca [mailto:Rebecca.Bradfield@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 14 September 2010 13:52

To: Meagan Mirza

Cc: Jaspert Gus; Thompson Adam

Subject: RE: Crime mapping

Meagan

Thanks for your note below and a useful conversation yesterday. As promised, please find below a summary of our emerging solution to the delivery of crime data at a level at which the public can see what is happening on their streets. As discussed, I will be putting advice to the Minister on this issue later in the week (hopefully tomorrow) and it would be incredibly helpful to be able to provide an indication of the ICO's views on the proposed approach.

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Kind regards

Rebecca

-----Original Message-----

From: Meagan Mirza [mailto:Meagan.Mirza@ico.gsi.gov.uk]

Sent: 10 September 2010 9:52 AM

To: Bradfield Rebecca

Cc: Judith Jones; Jonathan Bamford; Liam Duncan

Subject: Crime mapping

Rebecca

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If you do need anything further please contact me.

Regards
Meagan

Meagan Mirza Group Manager - Public Security Group

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From: Meagan Mirza
Sent: 15 September 2010 09:39
To: Iain Bourne
Subject: Email to PD following comments 20100915

Iain

Thanks for looking at my draft email so quickly and I've incorporated your comments in my email back. I'd thought the same but I had just assumed they were being put under 'violence' – I've asked her to clarify that.

Cheers

meagan

Meagan Mirza Group Manager - Public Security Group

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Andrew Rose Lead Internal Compliance Officer
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-----Original Message-----

From: Iain Bourne
Sent: 08 February 2011 09:42
To: Andrew Rose
Subject: FW: CrimeMapper Strategic Steering Group 1 - minutes and associated information

Iain Bourne Group Manager - Policy Delivery

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Cheshire SK9 5AF.
T. 01625 545325 F. 01625 524510 www.ico.gov.uk

-----Original Message-----

From: Meagan Mirza
Sent: 08 November 2010 09:38
To: Iain Bourne
Subject: FW: CrimeMapper Strategic Steering Group 1 - minutes and associated information

Iain
These are the minutes etc from the last Steering Group meeting. There are some mockups included as well but I've not had a chance to go through all the paperwork as yet. I'll send you the GMP decision notice separately.
Meagan

Meagan Mirza Group Manager - Public Security Group

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-----Original Message-----

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: 05 November 2010 13:50
To: Campbell Andrew; david.white@essex.pnn.police.uk; Deyes Nick; Edwards Alexander; Stephens2076@surrey.pnn.police.uk; Gus.Jaspert@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk; hannah.sharp@lga.gov.uk; Hazelby Mark; [REDACTED] Keane Nick; acpo.advice@foi.pnn.police.uk; Meagan Mirza; Miller Darren; Mortimore Steve; Murombe-Chivero Valentine; neil.rhodes@lincs.pnn.police.uk; Pascoe Jayne; Quinton Paul; rebecca.bradfield@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk;

Rupert.Chaplin@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk; Trevor.Adams@met.pnn.police.uk; Hazelby Mark
Subject: CrimeMapper Strategic Steering Group 1 - minutes and associated information

Good afternoon All,

Please find attached various papers from our first CrimeMapper Strategic Steering Group.

Meeting Minutes - please advise if any amendments or corrections are required by Friday 12th November.

<<2010-11-05 Meeting Minutes-CM SSG 1-v_1.1-NL.doc>>

Mock-ups of CrimeMapper's potential look/feel

<<CM v2 Mockups.pdf>>

Letter from DCC Rhodes and ACC Mortimore to all Chief Constables - uploaded to ACPO Intranet today

<<2010-11-05 CrimeMapper letter to Chiefs & ACPO Intranet-v_1.2-NLRBAE.doc>>

Current CrimeMapper Crime categories and definitions

<<CrimeMapper Crime Categories and Definitions - November 2010.xls>>

Please do let me know should you have any queries or require further information.

Kind regards

[REDACTED]
Staff Officer to ACC Steve Mortimore
Service Director
Policing, Policy and Practice
CEO Directorate
National Policing Improvement Agency

NPJA (Headquarters)
1st Floor, Fry Building
2 Marsham Street
London
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Judith Jones Senior Policy Officer - Public Security, Government and Society

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.
T. 01625 545804 www.ico.gov.uk

From: Meagan Mirza

Sent: 17 December 2010 09:44

To: Jonathan Bamford; Judith Jones; Steve Wood

Cc: Liam Duncan; Tony Dixon; Ian Miller; Iain Bourne; Stephen McCartney; Robert Parker

Subject: CrimeMapper update

I was at the third meeting of the Crimemapper Steering Group yesterday. The Home Office confirmed that the Cabinet Office are very interested in the work and it is very much linking in to the Privacy/Transparency review being led by Dr O'Hara. The PM's adviser on policing has also asked for and been given an update on the work of the group.

I've attached a screen print which shows how the maps will look. The icons they will be using are preferable to those that were originally proposed and they confirmed yesterday that the higher the number of crimes the bigger the circle will be. I had trouble scanning this as you'll see when you look at the scan but it is just to give you an idea of what this will look like when it goes live. There is still some work going on relation to programming where the 'snap points' will be located and I'll keep you updated on that.

A thorough PIA has been done and they'll be sharing that with us early next week for comments. The 'information sharing agreement' is being tweaked as we speak – this is for the data controllers (the forces) to sign off to allow the data to be transferred to the processors. As far as we understand all forces will be signing up to this once the agreement has been finalised and again we should have sight of that next week.

They're hoping to share more detail in the next few weeks around the 'FAQs' which will go up on the website and the comms strategy in preparation for the launch which will be as late in January as possible. I'll keep the press office up to date with this as it is likely we will get press queries once it is launched.

I will keep you updated but if you have any questions please ask me.

Meagan

Meagan Mirza Group Manager – Public Security Group

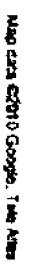
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Subscript

Health Protection Agency

RECEIVED 15 JULY 1988



1100 2nd Ave
CCTV 10

4/10/07

POLICE

Search

Overview

Crime

Meet the team

Get involved

Information and advice

Help

Feedback

API

More police apps >

Crime in this area

Street level Neighbourhood

Individual crimes at street level in September 2010

4.6 miles

100%

3 miles

All crime

Burglary

Anti-social behaviour

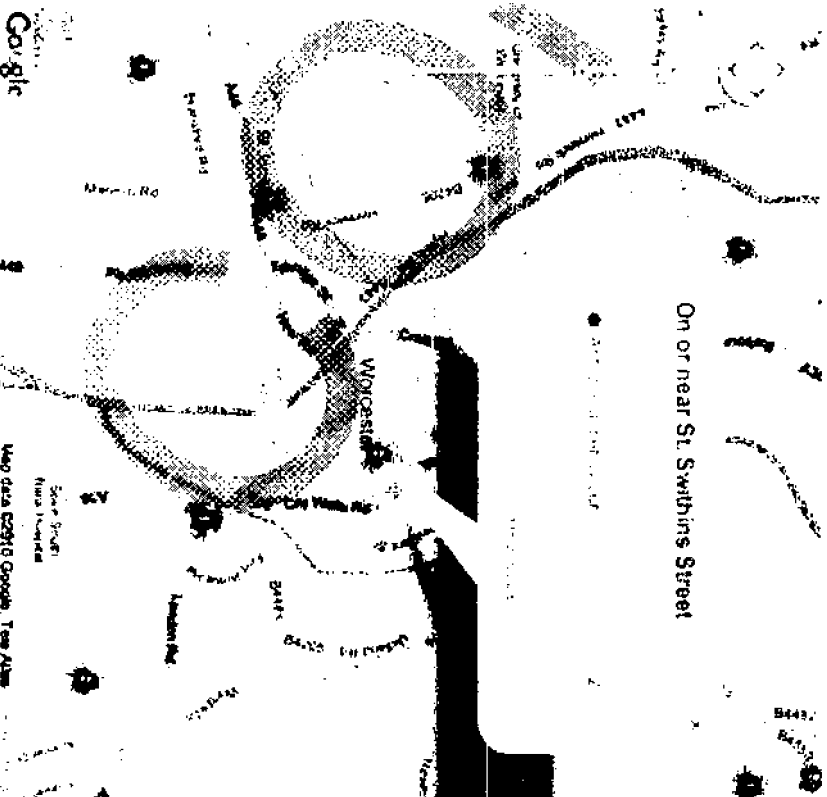
39

19

19

Report a crime

On or near St Swithins Street



Map data ©2010 Google, TomTom

POLICE

Search

- Overview
- Crime
- Meet the team
- Get involved
- Information and advice
- Help
- Feedback
- API
- More police apps >

Crime in this area

Street level

Neighbourhood

39 crimes

1 mile

3 miles

All crime

39

Burglary

19

Anti-social behaviour

19

Robbery

8

Vehicle crime

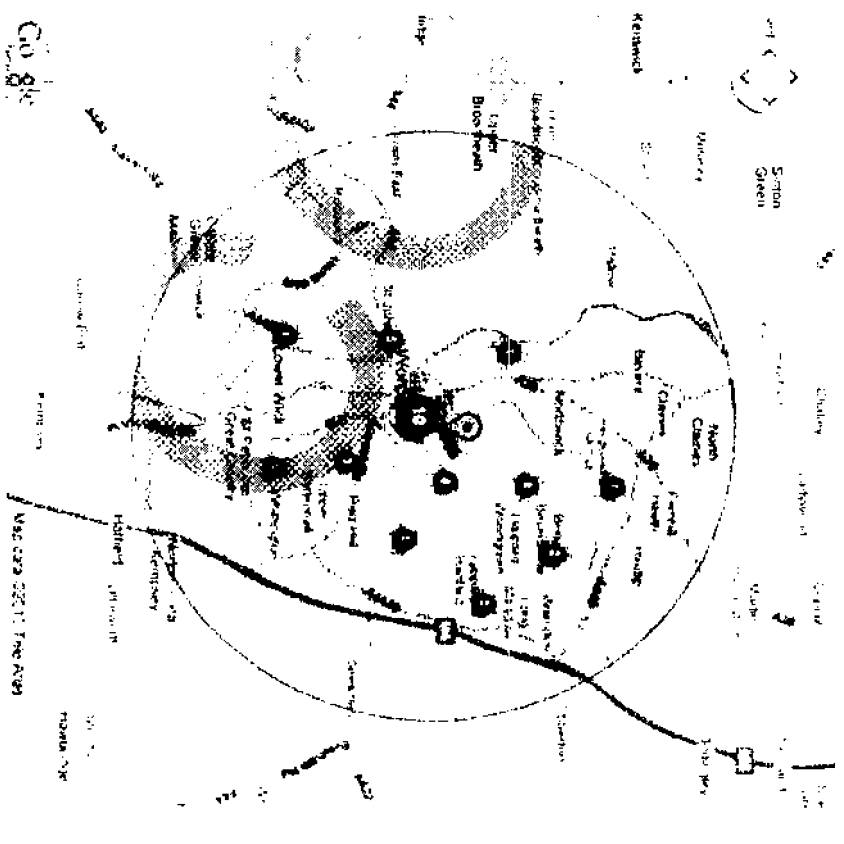
10

Violent crime

10

Other crime

10



From: Jonathan Bamford
Sent: 20 December 2010 10:20
To: Meagan Mirza
Subject: Email JB to MM Text for ICON on crime mapping 20101220

Meagan,

Steve and myself have agreed this text. Is OK by you too?

"Strategic Liaison and Policy Delivery have worked together to help ensure that the government's wish to increase transparency of public bodies also takes account of data protection concerns when personal information is involved.

One flagship ministerial initiative is the publication online of nationwide crime mapping information showing the location of all crimes. Strategic Liaison have been involved in influencing this initiative to make sure that data protection safeguards for victims are not overlooked. To support this work Policy Delivery urgently produced detailed and clear advice based on relevant past FoI decision notices, crime mapping techniques and the requirements of the DPA. (Insert link)

This advice not only helped Strategic Liaison successfully make the case for improved privacy safeguards but has now sparked cross government consideration of this important issue with the Cabinet Office Minister announcing a review of the impact of transparency on privacy to inform the Government's approach to the release of data as part of its transparency agenda. This is a good example of how Strategic Liaison and Policy Delivery work together with the aim that the ICO's information rights policy objectives are achieved in practice."

Jonathan

Jonathan Bamford Head of Strategic Liaison

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Judith Jones Senior Policy Officer - Public Security, Government and Society

Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire SK9 5AF.
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From: Meagan Mirza
Sent: 07 January 2011 14:43
To: Jonathan Bamford; Judith Jones
Cc: Steve Wood
Subject: RE: Crime Mapper - update

Thanks Jonathan. I'll get more detail from the Home Office on Tuesday about what they're thinking and I'll have a word with you then. We can involve the press team following that to do the leg work etc.
Meagan

Meagan Mirza Group Manager – Public Security Group

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From: Jonathan Bamford
Sent: 07 January 2011 14:20
To: Meagan Mirza; Judith Jones
Cc: Steve Wood
Subject: RE: Crime Mapper - update

Meagan,

Thanks for the update. I am sure we could say something positive. Does she want it proactive or reactive? If its in their release I don't want us in pole position for answering any queries about how it works etc. Or why the level they have set is correct. That's up to them. We can do Press team to do the leg work on this with their people.

Jonathan

Jonathan Bamford Head of Strategic Liaison

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From: Meagan Mirza
Sent: 07 January 2011 13:13
To: Jonathan Bamford; Judith Jones
Subject: Crime Mapper - update

Jonathan/Judith

I spoke with Rebecca this morning at the Home Office so she could update me on progress re the launch etc. The draft PIA has been circulated for comment. Rebecca is sending me a copy today but she did stress that it is a working copy. Progress wise, most forces have uploaded their data now. She is meeting with the Met on Monday afternoon to iron out some issues with the PIA but she thinks that they should be able to resolve their outstanding concerns. We have the steering group on Tuesday morning and she'll update me then on what the Met are doing but having spoken to them directly I understand that they are planning to upload so I think that covers all the forces.

They haven't set a launch date as yet as they are looking at what Ministers are available etc but they are planning for w/c 24 January. She has asked if we could consider say something supportive of the initiative. I think we could probably say something broadly along the lines of welcoming the drive towards greater transparency and the fact that they have taken on board the privacy concerns that arise etc etc but let me know whether you think this would be appropriate. I'm not sure whether we were planning to issue our own press release at the time?

thanks
Meagan

Meagan Mirza Group Manager – Public Security Group

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