

ORIGINATOR: Jo Badjie 7F Contract
Manager

DECISION NO. 33 /2021

REASON FOR SUBMISSION: Contract Extension Award & Sealing

SUBMITTED TO: Mark Stokes

SUBJECT: Provision of Forensic Analysis Services under The Next Generation
Forensic Framework Agreement

SUMMARY: 14-month extension required to run from the 14th January 2022 to
the 31st March 2023 to enable the re-procurement exercise and market
stabilisation work to be completed

RECOMMENDATION: In line with contract standing orders, the PCC for Norfolk
Constabulary should sign and seal the contract addendum implementing the
extension period.

OUTCOME/APPROVAL BY: PCC/CHIEF EXECUTIVE/CHIEF FINANCE
OFFICER (Delete as appropriate)

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.



Signature

Date: 14/07/2021

DETAIL OF THE SUBMISSION

- 1. OBJECTIVE:** To extend existing contracts with suppliers to enable market stabilisation to be completed and a new procurement exercise to be undertaken by the forces using nationally agreed specifications, contract forms and commercial models.
- 2. BACKGROUND:** The Commissioner entered into contracts with four regional forensic suppliers (Soctotec, Key Forensic, Cellmark and Eurofins) in July 2015 for the provision of forensic analysis for Drugs, Toxicology, Case Work, PACE DNA and Crime Scene DNA. These contracts commenced on a 4 year plus 12-month extension period, with a further contract extension implemented in May 2020 until January 2022 based on national guidance. The Forensic Capability Network (FCN) has recommended a further contract extension be put in place covering from January 2022 to March 2023.

- 3. AREAS FOR CONSIDERATION:**

The forensic market place has been increasingly unstable in recent years due to the limited number of suppliers and the constant focus on driving costs down. This has resulted in suppliers entering into contracts with unsustainable margins and has resulted in the FCN stepping in to undertake a market stabilisation exercise that saw an uplift in prices across all forensic services between 9% and 35%.

The FCN is leading on a number of initiatives to improve market place conditions including standardising specifications and documentation and ensuring that all police forces are able to stagger their procurement activity. This will help ease the burden on the suppliers who typically have small bid teams that cannot cope with the sheer volume of tenders and differing documentation.

The 7 Forces within Eastern Region are scheduled to undertake their re-procurement exercise second, after the West Midlands consortium. It is hoped that any lessons learnt can be captured and built in to our procurement exercise ensuring greater value, compliance and benefit to the forces.

In line with the other forces in the Eastern Region Norfolk Constabulary wishes to vary its contract with the four regional forensic suppliers for a further period of 14 months.

Alan Gilbert, Joint Head of Forensic Services is fully sighted on the extension process and has briefed chief officers accordingly.

- 4. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED:** None – This initiative is being led on a national basis for the benefit of all Forces and Suppliers. Failure to implement the contract extension will result in the forces not having a forensic services provider and therefore not being able to fulfil the key objective of providing an efficient police service to the public.

5. STRATEGIC AIMS/OBJECTIVE SUPPORTED: The Forensic contracts support the key objective of providing an efficient police services, supporting victims of crime and helping to protect the public and their property.

6. FINANCIAL AND OTHER RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

The original value of the Eastern Region Spend on Forensics was estimated to be £39m but with an additional 18-month extension implemented last year the spend has increased to £52.6m.

To date Norfolk & Suffolk have spent £8,781,369 with all 4 suppliers.

The 14-month extension period is expected to incur an additional £9m of spending across the 7F region with the additional spend for Norfolk estimated to be £1m

7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:

The extension period that this paper seeks approval for was not originally allowed for under the contract. This presents a risk of challenge to the constabulary. However, we plan on mitigating this risk by publishing a Voluntary Ex Ante Transparency notice on the UK e-Notification Service and implementing a 10-day standstill period as allowed for in the Public Contracts Regulations. As detailed above the market place for forensics is very small and it is unlikely that any challenge will be raised.


Any failure to implement a contract extension could result in service disruption and off contract payments being issued to suppliers.

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	No
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	No
Have human resource implications been considered?	No
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Yes
<p data-bbox="188 1462 772 1496">Is this report a Confidential Decision?</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> <input data-bbox="1051 1478 1173 1547" type="checkbox"/> <input data-bbox="1246 1478 1367 1547" type="checkbox" value="NO"/> </div> <p data-bbox="188 1570 1417 1603">If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the PCC Decision Making Policy</p>	

APPROVAL TO SUBMIT TO THE DECISION-MAKER (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.



Signature:

Date: 14/07/2021

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
OR
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
OR
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves
AND
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature:



Date: 14/07/2021

PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION: *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*