



Science
& Technology
in Policing

POLICE STAR FUND 2025/2026 CALL

BIDDERS PROSPECTUS



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OPPORTUNITY OVERVIEW

The success of Science, Technology, Analysis, and Research (STAR) within policing rests on local innovations that improve our service locally and nationally. This prospectus outlines your opportunity to secure investment in local and regional projects designed to enhance STAR in any area of policing. Due to the earlier call timeframes, our budget for 25/26 has yet to be confirmed (we will update as soon as we can), but the last Police STAR Fund pot was up to £3m and we do not currently expect that to reduce.

Individuals and teams from NPCC Forces, Offices of Police and Crime Commissioners (OPCC), the Home Office, the College of Policing (CoP), and the National Crime Agency (NCA) are eligible to bid. At this stage we are seeking short Expressions of Interest (EOI), to be submitted between **Monday 7 October and Friday 1 November 2024** using the online form which will be available at science.police.uk. An outline of the questions you will be asked can be found in Annex A.

Following a review of EOIs, selected applicants will be asked to provide a detailed account of their project by **17:00 on Friday 10 January 2025**. Funding decisions will be shared by the **10 March 2025**. Where a project is not funded through the Police STAR Fund, the Office of the Police Chief Scientific Adviser (OPCSA) may use your EOI to support you accessing other routes of funding and increase awareness of your proposal.

*****Please review this Prospectus in full before drafting your bid. Some criteria and processes have changed from previous years.*****

ELIGIBILITY

Types of proposals

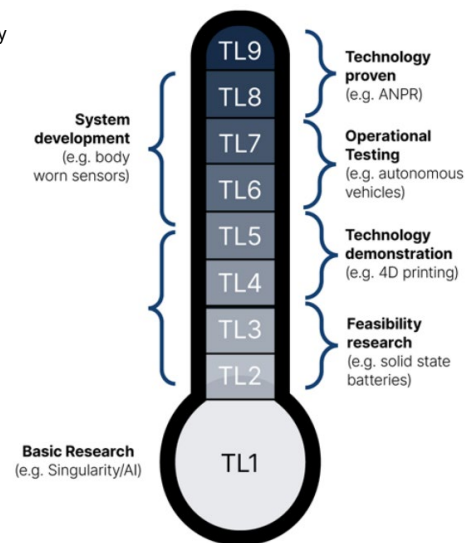
****Please note that the type of projects eligible for funding has been updated from previous years to more consistently focus on earlier stage R&D to support the seeding of the system. Please read carefully to check your project is eligible for funding****

We are open to funding a range of projects across policing as long as the work develops science, technology, analysis and/or research within policing.

A project must do something new, be clearly defined, and have strong science and/or technology elements aligned with the NPCC S&T strategy. It should support the development of new solutions to meet a priority policing challenge, show reference to our recently published ARIs where appropriate, and anticipate benefits for wider policing.

The Police STAR Fund focuses on early-stage development of innovation and research, rather than implementation. A project looking to understand whether something with an S&T focus works (e.g. fundamental research, feasibility studies, proof of concepts, testing and development etc.) is eligible. A project looking to evaluate the implementation of something, procure existing kit, or implement something known to be effective, is not. Generally, the Police STAR Fund 25/26 call will look to support projects covering up to TRL 7, which is demonstration and pilot of a prototype in an operational environment.

Fig 1. TRL levels: Taken from the NPCC S&T Strategy



We welcome bids that use knowledge and methods from engineering, social science, and other science disciplines; bids that seek to develop fundamental knowledge or a new technology; bids that seek to apply fundamental work to practice; and bids that look to further grass roots innovation and/or research in policing. We are particularly interested in bids which seek to further science research and scientific methods within policing. An eligible bid will:

- **Be evidently innovative and future focused.** It should clearly set out how you will address a current or future problem in policing. We accept that being innovative means a bid will not always deliver in line with initial expectations and that important lessons in science come from 'failure'.
- **Align with the NPCC Science and Technology Strategy and have clear science and/or technology elements.** It should clearly articulate how the project aligns with the S&T strategy, highlighting which service line it will contribute to and the horizon and/or TRL it is targeting. Projects must provide evidence of alignment with the NPCC strategy to be eligible for funding, those that also evidence alignment with our ARIs will likely better meet the assessment criteria of a priority policing challenge, although this is not a requirement. A project that shows 'alignment' solely by stating which NPCC service line they come under, would not meet the criterion effectively.
- **Be focused on early-stage research and development.** A project looking to understand whether something with an S&T focus works is eligible. A project looking to evaluate the implementation of something, procure existing kits, or implement something known to be effective, is not. The Police STAR Fund 25/26 call will look to support projects covering up to TRL 7. Projects looking at fundamental scientific research, feasibility studies, proof of concepts and testing in an operational environment are eligible.

- **Anticipate benefits for the organisation running the work and wider policing.** A project must clearly articulate the expected benefits that will be attained locally, regionally and nationally. This may be improved operational effectiveness, productivity gains, or a change in current approach or thinking. We understand innovation means success is not guaranteed; you should provide information on the assumption the work will be delivered in line with your expectations. We acknowledge that early-stage research will have less direct impact. While benefits of this research will often be more speculative, this does not reduce the importance of the work, and we encourage projects focused on early-stage research to apply to the fund.
- **Give a plan for improving current thinking or practice in policing more widely.** A bid should articulate how learning will be passed to others at regional, national, and international levels. This might involve sharing best practice via the NPCC, communicating to neighboring Forces, attendance at conferences and journal publications and so on.
- **Be consistent or complementary to any national approaches.** The Police STAR Fund looks for projects that can have an impact at a national level. At full stage, bids will need to evidence support from relevant national NPCC leads, and we ask for an indication of such at EOI. Therefore any bid submitted should compliment any ongoing national work and project teams should engage with relevant leads prior to submission. A bid will also need to align to all national relevant national frameworks, as outlined in the funding conditions in Annex B.

Innovation is an iterative process involving multiple steps. We will consider bids which continue work from existing projects including those previously funded by the Police STAR Fund. However, they must have a clear innovative and/or developmental aspect above what has been previously funded and fit within the criteria outlined. Applications must be clear on what the impact and benefit of the additional funding will be.

Funding and Duration

While the Police STAR Fund considers projects up to a maximum of 12 months in length (if delivered within the FY), we also encourage shorter projects (e.g. 6 months in length). Innovation is an iterative process and the Police STAR Fund helps projects take a step in developing a solution; to excel quickly or fail fast. In general, we would not expect more than 2-3 TRL jumps within a single bid. Therefore, please do consider if your project length is appropriate.

As above, projects can vary in length but will need to be completed within FY 25/26. You should carefully consider all recruitment, vetting, contracting and internal agreement timeframes as part of your project planning and bid. In previous years, projects that have not planned sufficient time for these activities have failed to achieve their outcomes, with some returning funding to OPCS. At full stage your bid will be rigorously evaluated to ensure confidence in your ability to complete by 31 March 2026.

We have an expectation that projects will cost no more than £300k, given the need to spend in FY and our desire to fund a variety of research and innovation. In very exceptional cases we may consider larger projects, but the justification needs to be particularly strong, and co-investment is anticipated.

If you are seeking to collaborate with a university or other higher education institution, they should provide their costs at 100% full economic cost (fEC). If you are seeking to collaborate with an industry partner, they should provide their full costs, inclusive of VAT and/or any other applicable tax.

All work which is funded through the Police STAR Fund should conclude by 31 March 2026 (i.e., spend must occur within FY25/26). We will not reimburse costs associated with the development or submission of a bid.

Successful projects will be able to claim funding in arrears in October 2025 and January 2026 subject to meeting reporting requirements. By accepting the offer of funding, recipient teams and organisations are also agreeing to adhere to our funding conditions – Annex B.

Organisation Eligibility

Individuals and teams from [NPCC forces](#), OPCCs, Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU), Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP), the NCA, the College of Policing, and the Home Office are eligible to submit applications to the Police STAR Fund. A full list of eligible organisations can be found in Annex C.

We encourage bidders to collaborate with outside partners, including Higher Education Institutions, research organisations, charities, and commercial companies. However, bids must be led and submitted by eligible organisations.

Please ensure you have checked your organisations eligibility before submitting an application. Applications from ineligible organisations will not be accepted.

If you are uncertain about your eligibility, please contact PoliceSTARFundEnquires@npcc.police.uk for advice.

APPLICATION PROCESS

The Police STAR Fund operates a 2-stage application process. Applicants will first be asked to submit a short (~750 word) EOI using an online form accessed at science.police.uk, with those successful applicants being invited to submit a more detailed full stage application. A breakdown of the application process timeline can be found in Annex D.

Expressions of Interest (Stage 1)

You must provide an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) proposal using the [online form](#) available at science.police.uk. A printed version of the form can be found in Annex A to help with the development of your bid. This EOI is your opportunity to outline the nature of your project and how it will provide an innovative solution, advances knowledge or provides additional understanding, for the benefit of policing. The form contains sections to help you outline the rationale for your proposal. It gives word counts as an indication of how much detail to provide (you do not have to reach these indicative maximum counts, but you must not exceed them).

Ideally you should be able to provide a breakdown of costs at EOI stage. This does not have to be in significant levels of detail, but we do expect you to indicate where you expect costs to occur. Where firm costings are unavailable, you should provide indicative costs and a firm upper cost, with an explanation for why uncertainty is necessary at this stage.

The online form will be open for submissions between **9am 7th October 2024 and 5pm 1st November 2024**. Applications cannot be submitted outside of these times. Only applications submitted through the online form will be considered for funding. Please note: you will not be able to edit your application once submitted, so do utilise the EOI questionnaire provided in Annex A to support the drafting of your bid.

No other materials can be submitted as part of the bidding process. By submitting an EOI, you are confirming that all relevant parts of your organisation have agreed to support your delivery of the bid.

EOIs will be assessed by at least two experts within the OPCS team against the assessment criteria outlined in Annex E.

Applicants will be notified of EOI outcomes on or before 25 November 2024. Successful applicants will then be invited to submit a full stage application. Please note, due to the high volume of EOIs received, we will be unable to provide comprehensive feedback at EOI stage.

Full Stage Applications (Stage 2)

If successful at EOI, you will be invited via email to Full Stage. When invited to full stage, you will be sent the full stage application form and accompanying guidance and assessment criteria. The form consists of 6 questions and will require more information about your proposal, work plan and deliverables. An overview of what will be asked at Full stage is below.

Q1 - The Challenge

- This section will require you to articulate the challenge/problem clearly and comprehensively you are looking to address with your project with evidence

Q2 - The Proposal

- You will be asked to provide a detailed explanation of your proposed innovation, research, or evaluation and how it will meet the needs of the challenge you have outlined

Q3 - The Delivery

- This section should include detailed information on the work you plan to do and how your project will be delivered and by whom. A clear project plan must be provided

Q4 - The Value for Money

- This section will ask you to provide a detailed breakdown and justification of costs and evidence how your project provides value for money for policing

Q5 - The Impact and Benefits

- You will be asked to provide clear information on the route to impact for your project and specific benefits to be achieved. You will also be asked how you plan to disseminate your findings and their impact on wider policing.

Q6 -The Risks

- You will be asked to provide a comprehensive consideration of risks and mitigations for your project

Full Stage applications will be assessed against a criterion provided with the bid form by reviewers following a transparent competitive evaluation process. Each bid will be assessed at least three times from a reviewer pool drawn from the NPCC, Home Office science and policy teams, OPCSA, representatives of the policing community, and academics. The Chief Scientific Adviser also reads all full stage applications and will provide his assessment.

As part of the evaluation process, applicants may be contacted during the assessment stage to allow reviewers to gain further insight into your proposal. Therefore, please ensure the contact details you provide will allow you to be reached.

Reviewer assessment will feed into subsequent evaluation of applications by the moderation panel and the National Science and Innovation Board (NSIB), chaired by DCC Ben Snuggs. Results of the Full Stage will be shared with applicants on or before the 10th of March. Feedback will be provided to those who have been unsuccessful.

Post Award and Project Initiation

Upon notification of funding, project teams will need to accept and confirm their agreement to the funding terms outlined in Annex B. Successful projects will be able to claim funding in areas in October 25 and January 26 subject to meeting reporting requirements. More information on claiming funding will be provided to successful projects prior to the funding claim window. By accepting the offer of funding, recipient teams and organisations are also agreeing to adhere to our funding conditions – Annex B.

Projects should then start in line with the project plans submitted as part of their full stage bid, completing by 31st March 2026.

Annex A – EOI Questionnaire

The following outlines the questions you will be asked during EOI submission. This is provided to help you draft your bid. Please note, only applications submitted through the online form will be considered for funding.

Organisation Eligibility

Which type of eligible organisation are you applying from? *(Please see annex C if you are unsure which category your organisation fits into)*

- NPCC Member Forces
- PCC Office
- Regional Unit
- National Entity

Please choose the correct organisation from the drop-down list

Project Details

Project name (15 words)

Project Summary (50 words)

Please provide a 50-word summary of your project - this will be used to publicise your project, should you be successful. Therefore, please provide a summary that is clear, concise, any abbreviations used for the first time are shown as a suffix in brackets eg, Right Care, Right Person (RCRP) etc., to support sharing and understanding publicly

Primary Project Lead

Please provide the name of your lead project contact. This person will receive all correspondence in relation to your application and should be from the eligible organisation you are applying from. Submissions with lead contacts which do not match the eligible organisation indicated in the EOI may have their application withdrawn.

Primary Project lead email address

Please provide a work contact email for the project lead. Projects with lead contact information which does not match the eligible organisation indicated may have their application withdrawn.

Please list any policing, academic and/or industry partners you are working with on this project.

Funding request

Please indicate the total funding amount you are requesting from the Police STAR Fund 25/26 for this project. We have an expectation that projects will cost no more than £300k, given the need to spend in FY and our desire to fund a variety of innovation and research. In very exceptional cases we may consider larger projects, but the justification needs to be particularly strong, and co-investment is anticipated.

Funding request breakdown

Please provide a high-level breakdown of how this funding will be spent e.g. X amount on staffing costs, Y amount on hardware. If you are unable to provide a breakdown, please explain why and outline how you plan to ensure this information is available for full stage.

Has this project received funding before, including from the Police STAR Fund? *Please provide details*

Have you secured any co-funding for this bid? *Please provide details.*

Project Length – *please give an indication of your proposed project's length. All projects must be completed within the 25/26 FY*

- < 3 months
- 3 to 6 months
- 6 to 9 months
- 9 to 12 months

NPCC S&T Service line alignment – *please indicate which of the S&T strategy service lines your innovation aligns with*

- Analytics
- Identification and Tracing
- Surveillance and Sensing
- Interconnectivity
- Crime Prevention
- Personal Safety
- Mobility

Policing Area's of Research Interest (ARI) Alignment – *Please indicate which (if any) ARI your project supports*

- Enduring Challenges – Building and maintaining public trust
- Enduring Challenges – Future workforce and training
- Enduring Challenges – Responding to the climate crisis
- Crime Prevention – Safe public spaces
- Crime Prevention – Evidencing the value of prevention initiatives
- Crime Prevention – Risk mitigation
- Personal Safety – Wellbeing
- Personal Safety – Next generation uniform
- Personal Safety – Lawful detection and interdiction
- Mobility – Autonomous vehicles
- Mobility – Advanced robotics
- Mobility – Carbon neutral alternatives
- Identification and Tracing – Image processing at scale
- Identification and Tracing – Emerging biometrics
- Identification and Tracing – Digital forensics
- Surveillance and Sensing – Vulnerable interviewing
- Surveillance and Sensing – Next generation sensing and signal processing
- Surveillance and Sensing – Next generation situational awareness
- Analytics – Methods to improve data quality

- Analytics – Tools to support processes and compliance
- Analytics – Public understanding and consent
- Interconnectivity – Fast/flexible data fusion
- Interconnectivity – Next generation interconnectivity
- Interconnectivity – Modern, full journey public engagement

Please indicate the NPCC committee(s) your project would fall under. *Please note as the Science and Innovation Coordination Committee is part of the governance structure for the Fund, all projects are automatically classed as falling under that committee. You should indicate below which other committees your proposed research sits within.*

- Counter Terrorism Coordination Committee
- Criminal Justice Coordination Committee
- Digital, Data and Technology Coordination Committee
- Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Coordination Committee
- Finance Coordination Committee
- International Coordination Committee
- Local Policing Coordination Committee
- National Crime Coordination Committee
- Operations Coordination Committee
- Performance Management Coordination Committee
- Prevention Coordination Committee
- Science and Innovation Coordination Committee (for AI portfolio only)
- Workforce Coordination Committee

Within the committees you have indicated above, what are the key NPCC/Policing portfolio(s) that this project may sit under e.g., Digital Forensics, VAWG, AI etc. please provide details:

Please indicate whether the portfolio is aware of this project proposal:

- No, I have not yet engaged with the NPCC portfolio
- Yes, an NPCC portfolio is supporting the bid
- Yes, NPCC portfolio is aware and considering supporting the bid
- Yes, but NPCC portfolio is not supportive of the bid

If you have indicated more than one portfolio, please provide a breakdown of their awareness/support in the open text box below

Project Proposal

What challenge does your project seek to address (100 words)

Outline the problem you are trying to address with supporting evidence

What innovation or research do you plan to undertake (450 words)

Briefly outline your innovation and/or research, showing evidence of how it is innovative compared to the current landscape, and explain how you plan to deliver it and over what period

What measurable difference will your innovation or research make? (100 words)

Outline the benefits and impact of your innovation and/or research both locally and to wider policing

What are the risks and challenges to your success? (100 words)

Please briefly outline the key risks and challenges to your project and how you plan to mitigate them

Does your project require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA)? Has this already been agreed?

If your project requires a data sharing agreement, you should indicate below how far along the process of agreeing and implementing you are. At EOI stage we do not expect all projects to have an agreed DPIA in place, however we do expect you to be considering its development and implementation as part of your bid planning where appropriate.

- No DPIA needed
- Yes, DPIA agreed
- Yes, DPIA in progress but yet to be agreed
- Yes, DPIA not yet initiated

Please confirm your project will be delivered within the 25/26 Financial year.

Due to funding rules, only projects that will be undertaken and completed within the 25/26 financial year will be eligible for funding

- Yes, my project will be delivered within the 25/26 FY

Please confirm that you have adhered to any sign-off processes needed from your organisation to submit this bid.

By agreeing below, you are also confirming that should you be successful with your application, you have:

- *Spoken to all relevant stakeholders and responsible leads in all relevant parts of your organisation regarding your project*
- *Obtained agreement for any necessary resources required internally to deliver the Project (e.g. IT/ICT, Business Change and Internal Stakeholder teams etc)*
- *Confidence in the timely delivery of the project.*

- I confirm

Annex B – Draft Funding Conditions

Conditions of funding can be found outlined below. These may change slightly prior to projects being offered funding however we expect them to remain broadly the same. Project teams accepting the offer of funding will be committing to the Police STAR Fund funding conditions which will be confirmed with them at the point of offer.

Headline conditions

- Spend and delivery should be completed within the financial year (25/26);
- OPCSA should be notified at earliest convenience of possible underspend, with any being returned by the end of the project;
- Adherence to appropriate local controls re-Finance and Commercial decisions (e.g. using Force financial processes, commercial frameworks etc);
- Agreement to complete regular quarterly project updates and a final report.

Oversight

As part of the agreement to fund, projects are expected to provide 4 light-touch quarterly updates on progress and a final report presenting all the work undertaken. The draft schedule for those reports is below, and you will receive templates and request emails in the weeks prior to the due dates. Projects will be able to claim funding in arrears in October 2025 and January 2026 subject to meeting reporting requirements.

Reporting Requirement	Date Due
Q1 Update	06/25
Q2 Update	09/25
Q3 Update	12/25
Q4 Update	03/26
Final Project Report	06/26**

**** although all project work must be completed by 31st March 2026, project teams are given until June 2026 to submit their final report to allow time for them to go through any internal force sign off before submission.**

Open science

The UK National Action Plan for [Open Government](#) commits us to Open Science, which is the umbrella term for making all aspects of science and knowledge generation freely and publicly available. Practically, this means that you should expect the final report of your project to be made publicly available at no cost to a reader, unless operational sensitivities prevent you from doing so. We further encourage you to work toward making available any data files and materials along with the report, which allows others to understand what you have done. Finally, for those running a study, qualitative or quantitative in nature, we strongly encourage you to pre-register your research design on an established platform (e.g. at <https://osf.io>). We have published our research concordat

as part of our commitment to open science, which can be found here

https://science.police.uk/site/assets/files/3446/npcc_ocs_a_research_concordat_22-23.pdf

Aligning to national approaches, standards and frameworks

All projects undertaken should align to nationally agreed approaches, standards and frameworks where appropriate. These are outlined below and evidence of alignment should be included in your final report.

- [Police Industry Charter](#) – all projects should be mindful of the principles set out in this charter and we would encourage all industry partners to consider signing up. The Charter was officially signed at Security and Policing 2024
- [Covenant for using Artificial Intelligence in Policing](#) – developed by OPCS and endorsed by Chiefs Council in September 2023, the AI covenant sets out the key principles that policing should follow when considering the use of AI
- [POLE Data Standards](#) - Developed by the NPCC and the Police Digital Service
- [The Data Protection Act](#) - Developed by the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO)
- [Cyber system Management Standard](#) - Developed by the Police Digital Service
- [The Equality Act](#) - Developed by the Government Equalities Office
- [Website and Application Accessibility Regulations](#) - Developed by the Government Digital Services

Raising awareness

We welcome any project team wanting to promote their project or publish their results. We ask that project teams confer with the Police STAR fund team (PoliceSTARFundEnquiries@npcc.police.uk) prior to any proactive comms being taken, or if you are approached by the press. We ask to be looped into any communications publicised on your public channels/through the press, so we can ensure it accurately reflects our office, the fund and Professor Paul Taylor's role.

We may also be able to provide key lines and logos, upon request, to support comms activity.

Finally, we ask that the amount of funding provided by the Police STAR fund isn't publicised unless we have made our own announcements, of which you will be notified.

Annex C – Eligible Organisations

NPCC Member Forces			PCCs		Regional Units	National Entities	
Avon and Somerset Constabulary	Merseyside Police	<i>Forces listed below are eligible to submit a bid, however as bids are evaluated for their impact on wider policing, we would encourage you to consider partnering with another force/listed organisation to increase your ability to meet that criteria</i>	Avon and Somerset	Lincolnshire	EMSOU	NPCC	
Bedfordshire Police	Metropolitan Police Service		Bedfordshire	London	WMROCU	NPAS	
Cambridgeshire Constabulary	Norfolk Constabulary		Cambridgeshire	Merseyside	ERSOU	<i>National entities listed below are eligible to submit a bid, however as bids are evaluated for their impact on wider policing, we would encourage you to consider partnering with a force/ other listed organisation to increase your ability to meet that criteria</i>	
Cheshire Constabulary	North Wales Police		Cheshire	Norfolk	NERSOU		
City of London Police	North Yorkshire Police		City of London	North Wales	NWROCU		
Cleveland Police	Northamptonshire Police		Cleveland	North Yorkshire	SEROCU		
Cumbria Constabulary	Northumbria Police		Cumbria	Northamptonshire	SWROCU		
Derbyshire Constabulary	Nottinghamshire Police		Derbyshire	Northumbria	TARIAN		
Devon & Cornwall Police	South Wales Police		Devon & Cornwall	Nottinghamshire	YHROCU		Home Office
Dorset Police	South Yorkshire Police		Dorset	South Wales	CTP – North East		College of Policing
Durham Constabulary	Staffordshire Police		Durham	South Yorkshire	CTP – North West		National Crime Agency
Dyfed-Powys Police	Suffolk Constabulary		Dyfed-Powys	Staffordshire	CTP – Wales		Forensic Capability Network
Essex Police	Surrey Police		Essex	Suffolk	CTP – West Midlands		
Gloucestershire Constabulary	Sussex Police		Gloucestershire	Surrey	CTP – South West		
Greater Manchester Police	Thames Valley Police		Greater Manchester	Sussex	CTP – East Midlands		
Gwent Police	Warwickshire Police		Gwent	Thames Valley	CTP – Eastern		
Hampshire Constabulary	West Mercia Police		Hampshire	Warwickshire	CTP – South East		
Hertfordshire Constabulary	West Midlands Police		Hertfordshire	West Mercia			
Humberside Police	West Yorkshire Police		Humberside	West Midlands			
Kent Police	Wiltshire Police	Kent	West Yorkshire Combined Authority				
Lancashire Constabulary		Lancashire	Wiltshire				
Leicestershire Police		Leicestershire					
Lincolnshire Police							

Annex D – Application Process Timeline



Annex E – EOI Assessment Criteria

At EOI stage, your proposal will be evaluated as a whole against the 4 criteria detailed on the left hand side of the table:

Criteria	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
	<i>Not demonstrated – No positive evidence and/or substantial negative evidence demonstrated</i>	<i>Minimal demonstration – Limited positive evidence and/or negative evidence demonstrated</i>	<i>Moderate demonstration - Some positive evidence but several gaps and/or negative evidence demonstrated.</i>	<i>Good demonstration – Generally positive evidence, no gaps of concern.</i>	<i>Strong demonstration - Substantial positive evidence, with no gaps</i>
Quality of proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scientific excellence and contribution to existing knowledge; Articulation of the priority policing challenge the project seeks to address and its alignment with NPCC S&T strategy. Explanation of how the project will address that challenge and the approach to be taken Strong Science and/or technology elements outlined with reference to ARIs where appropriate Clear work plan outline with realistic outcomes and deliverables; Addresses risks to - and management of - the bid over its lifespan; Where relevant, commits to research transparency and integrity, such as engagement with Open Science practices 	The purpose of the project is unclear and does not clearly articulate the challenge and innovation aspects of the proposal. The project does not have science and/or technology elements and there is no alignment with the S&T strategy. The bid does not show how the project meets the assessment criteria	Quality of the proposal is limited and is lacking clarity on the challenge and innovation aspects of the proposal. Limited elements of S&T are included and there is limited alignment with the S&T strategy. The bid may meet some of the assessment criteria but does not contain the information needed to make a full review.	Quality of the proposal is adequate and contains some detail on the challenge and innovative aspects of the proposal. This bid has some elements of S&T and there is some alignment with the S&T strategy and ARIs where appropriate. The level of detail in the bid is adequate however more information may be needed to show all aspects of the criteria have been fully considered.	The proposal is of good quality and contains sufficient detail on the challenge and innovative aspects of the solution. The project is clearly S&T focused and aligns well with the S&T strategy and Policing ARIs. The bid is well drafted, acknowledges any gaps, and provides reasonable assurances about how they will be addressed in a Full Bid.	High quality bid with a high level of detail of the challenge an innovation aspect of the solution. Strong S&T elements with excellent alignment to the S&T strategy and Policing ARIs. The bid is well constructed and articulates how it meets the assessment criteria
Pathways to impact <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Likely importance and timeliness to wider policing; Confidence of ability to positively affect the police mission and share finding and benefits with wider policing Consideration of dissemination plans to maximise the wider impact of the work (e.g. for other Police Forces) 	The project does not have a clear impact to wider policing or lacks the evidence to make an assessment.	Impact of project is limited, there may be of some importance to policing but the evidence is not clear or the bid does not contain the information needed to make a full review.	The impact of the proposal on policing is adequately described. Some thought of how the benefits of the project may be shared with wider policing. The level of detail is adequate, but more information may be needed.	The impact on wider policing is well described. Sufficient thought of how the benefits may be shared with wider policing.	The impact on wider policing is strongly described. The bid shows clear consideration of how to maximise the benefits of the project and sharing with wider policing.

Criteria	Score				
	1	2	3	4	5
<p>Capability of applicants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Evidence of sufficient resourcing and expertise to deliver a successful bid;</i> <i>Innovative collaborations that would not occur otherwise;</i> <i>Where applicable, evidence of how this activity will serve as professional development for some (e.g., early career) team members.</i> 	<p><i>Not demonstrated – No positive evidence and/or substantial negative evidence demonstrated</i></p> <p>The bid does not provide sufficient evidence that the project team are able to deliver the innovation.</p>	<p><i>Minimal demonstration – Limited positive evidence and/or mainly negative evidence demonstrated</i></p> <p>The information provided does not lead to confidence the team would be able to deliver the innovation.</p> <p>The bid may not contain the information needed to make a full review.</p>	<p><i>Moderate demonstration - Some positive evidence but several gaps and negative evidence demonstrated.</i></p> <p>The information provided leads to limited confidence the team would be able to deliver the innovation.</p> <p>The level of detail is adequate, but more information may be needed.</p>	<p><i>Good demonstration – Generally positive evidence, no gaps of concern.</i></p> <p>The information provided leads to confidence the team would be able to deliver the innovation.</p>	<p><i>Strong demonstration - Substantial positive evidence, with no gaps</i></p> <p>The information provided leads to a strong confidence the team would be able to deliver the innovation.</p>
<p>Value for money</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Reasonable and justified costs for the specified work</i> <i>Synergies with other activities, and costs and impacts which when considered together bring effective additional value to policing.</i> 	<p>The project does not provide value for money for wider policing, either when taken on its own, or in the context of the wider policing landscape.</p>	<p>The project does not provide value for money for wider policing either when taken on its own, or in the context of the wider policing innovation landscape.</p> <p>The bid may not contain the information needed to make a full review.</p>	<p>There is adequate evidence the proposal is value for money for wider policing, either taken on its own or in the context of wider policing innovation landscape.</p>	<p>The proposal shows good value for money for wider policing, when taken on its own and in the context of wider policing innovation.</p>	<p>The proposal shows excellent value for money for wider policing, when taken on its own and in the context of wider policing innovation.</p>

Annex F – Questions to consider and top tips

Questions to consider when thinking about developing a research or innovation project:

You should consider the below questions before you start developing your proposed research. Answers to the below will also help you craft a strong EOI.

What is your challenge?

You should be challenge focussed. Have a clearly defined challenge identified and evidenced. This will not only help with developing your solution but will also support you in understanding the potential benefits

What is already out there in this space? How does it fail to meet the needs of the challenge?

You should do a significant amount of research and due diligence to understand the landscape in which your challenge sits. You should engage with other forces and relevant national leads to gain their understanding and support. This will help you shape the most useful and innovative solution.

What is your solution? What makes it innovative?

Have a clear outline of what exactly your solution is. What does it do, how does it address the challenge? Be clear in your understanding of how it is different to what is already available and the value it will add.

How will you deliver your solution? Who will you work with? How long will it take? How much will it cost?

Have a plan of how your solution will be delivered. Research who will deliver it with you, realistic time scales, costings, and risks. Consider different ways your solutions could be delivered – your first approach may not always be the best

What are the blockers to this solution? What do you need to consider during the planning stage?

You should have a good understanding of what may lead your solution to fail, both in its delivery and ability to meet the challenge. Consideration of resources and dependencies on other areas of the organisation are important, alongside any agreements such as DPIAs. You should also ensure national standards are appropriately considered in relation to your solution

Top tips for writing your EOI

- Read all of the documentation and guidance provided, including the assessment criteria before writing your bid. Make sure you are providing the information asked for under each section, not just what you believe is important.
- Use the outline EOI Questionnaire in Annex A to help draft your bid before submission. Word limits are hard, therefore take care not to draft over. Word limits represent a maximum limit; therefore, you may wish to submit a shorter answer, ensuring it still provides the necessary information.
- Although you do not need to provide extensive detail, a good EOI will provide an evidenced and logical justification for the project and should give confidence to assessors that it has been well considered before submission and a comprehensive full stage bid can be provided were you to be invited to submit.
- Bids should be clear and concise. EOI's will be assessed by a range of assessors and roles, therefore please ensure your EOI can be easily understood by a non-specialist. You should provide evidence and detail to back up your claims within your bid, especially when outlining how your innovation or research differs from the current landscape and its impact. You may wish to have someone outside of your immediate area review your EOI before submission, to ensure clarity of message.
- When outlining impact and benefits, try to use quantitative as well as qualitative examples where appropriate and able.
- Your EOI will be assessed against the 4 criteria outlined in Annex E, there is no individual criteria for each question. Therefore, when drafting your bid, please consider how the information you have provided across the questions comes together to accurately reflect your project.