

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

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### How much money is available for Police STAR Fund 25/26 Projects and how much can I bid for?

Our budget for 25/26 is 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. 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.

### Can a force submit more than 1 bid for the Police STAR Fund?

Yes. There's currently no limit on the number of bids a force can submit to the Police STAR Fund, nor is there a limit on the number of bids from a force we may choose to fund (depending on assessment outcomes). However, we may seek assurances that the projects can all be delivered should they be funded.

### Who is Eligible for Funding?

Individuals and teams from [NPCC forces](#), Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), Regional Units, Counter Terrorism Policing, the National Crime Agency, 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 of the bidders' prospectus.

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 organisation's 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](mailto:PoliceSTARFundEnquires@npcc.police.uk) for advice.

### Do you need a full breakdown of costs at EOI stage?

Ideally you should be able to provide a high-level breakdown of costs at EOI stage. This does not have to include significant levels of detail, but we do expect you to indicate what your funding will be allocated to, and to include informed estimates. 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.

## What kind of projects are you looking for?

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.

Projects must be innovatively future focused, clearly defined, and have strong science and/or technology elements aligned with the NPCC S&T strategy. They 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.

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.

The Police STAR Fund focuses on early-stage development of innovation and research, rather than implementation. Projects looking to understand whether something with an S&T focus works (e.g. fundamental research, feasibility studies, proof of concepts, testing and development etc.), are eligible. Projects looking to evaluate the implementation of something, procure existing kit, or implement something known to be effective, are not. Further information on project eligibility can be found in the bidders prospectus

## How do I apply?

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](https://science.police.uk), with those successful applicants being invited to submit a more detailed full stage application.

You must provide an initial Expression of Interest (EOI) proposal using the online form available at [science.police.uk](https://science.police.uk). A document version of the form can be found in the prospectus 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 evaluate existing practice, 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 maximum counts).

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

## How likely am I to be successful?

With limited funding available, demand for the Police STAR fund is high. We typically fund between 10-20% of bids received at EOI stage, which is about 50% of bids considered at full stage, although this varies depending on quality, funding requests, and total amount of funding available.

### **What guidance is available to help me write my bid?**

The bidders' prospectus is available at [science.police.uk](http://science.police.uk) and provides extensive information on developing and submitting your bid. This includes: guidance on the application process, a copy of the EOI form to help you draft your bid, the assessment criteria, eligibility criteria, funding conditions, and top tips for writing a bid. A list of previously funded projects can also be found on the [science.police.uk](http://science.police.uk) website. We would also encourage you to engage with your force's Research and Innovation Lead (RIL), and previous Police STAR Fund applicants to gain insight and support with writing your bid.

### **What's the best way for me to link into a relevant NPCC portfolio?**

The best way to do that is through the NPCC strategic hub as they have links to the coordination committee coordinators that manage all of the portfolios. You can contact the hub on [info@npcc.police.uk](mailto:info@npcc.police.uk) outlining the area you wish to link up with, and they will then direct you to the relevant committee and portfolio. There is also a full list of NPCC leads and contacts available on the ChiefsNet homepage.

### **My project is looking to pilot an approach, would that be eligible?**

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. Therefore, if you are looking to test or pilot a prototype to understand its potential and/or effectiveness, this will be eligible. Proof of Concepts would also be eligible for funding.

### **Can I bid in for funding for a role resource?**

Generally, the Police STAR Fund is not there to provide funding for particular roles if that is all the bid is looking to do. However, if the role is needed to undertake the work outlined in the project bid, we would provide funding. For example, if a project needs an analyst to undertake data analysis to support the evaluation element of a project, you can include the cost of the analysts' hours in your bid application.