



Reference No: 024 - 2018

## THE POLICE CRIME & VICTIMS' COMMISSIONER FOR DURHAM

### DECISION RECORD FORM

**REQUEST:**

**Title:** Contract to deliver training in forensics to the Bahraini Police Force

**Executive Summary:**

The UK College of Policing has previously worked with the Kingdom of Bahrain Public Security Services to improve their capability and capacity in the investigation of crime through effective structures, systems and processes.

An agreement was reached between the College of Policing and the Kingdom of Bahrain Ministry of the Interior Forensic Science Directorate to develop and commence delivery of a forensic programme of training to meet the needs of the Kingdom of Bahrain. This training programme was based on the International Forensic Training programme offered currently by the College but could include elements tailored specifically to the needs of the Bahrain Police Service.

The College of Policing delivered CSI and Fingerprint training to the KOB from April 2016 with a project plan for delivery of CSI Milestone 1 and Fingerprint Milestone 1 and 2 courses up to December 2016.

However, following an internal review conducted by the College of Policing in September 2016 the board made a decision that the college would no longer deliver forensics training nationally or internationally. This decision was not influenced or associated with any developments in Bahrain but was solely based on the College's intent on concentrating on its main strategic objectives.

The Chief of Public Security Bahrain MOI was informed of this decision in September 2016 and given formal notification that the College would be terminating its contract with the Kingdom to deliver the agreed Forensics Programme.

Durham Constabulary has subsequently been working with the college to assist Bahrain in the continuation of this training. Durham Constabulary and PCVC have worked with the Kingdom of Bahrain to agree a contract for delivery of the programme. This will see Durham Constabulary deliver training in forensics to officers within the Bahraini Police Force, in return for a sum to cover all related costs.

The proposal to do so has been agreed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the International Policing Advisory Board, and has been through the UK Government's Overseas Security and Justice Assessment.

The PCVC recognises that concerns have been raised previously, including by the Home Affairs Select Committee of the UK Parliament, about UK Policing's involvement in delivery of training to Bahrain due to human rights abuses. The training which will be delivered will help to promote human rights within Bahrain, because it will assist the police force to move more towards charging, prosecution and conviction based on evidence rather than confession. It is entirely consistent with British Foreign Policy in the region.

**Decision:** PCVC agrees to sign a contract with the Ministry of Interior in Bahrain to deliver training in forensics

**OPCC Lead Officer:** Alan Reiss

**Contractor Details (if applicable):** Ministry of Interior, Bahrain

**Implications:**

| Has consideration been taken of the following: | Yes                                 | No                       |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Financial                                      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Legal  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Equality & Diversity                           | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Human Rights                                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |

|  |                                     |                          |  |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--|
| Sustainability                                       | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Risk   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| Consultation   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |  |
| <b>(If yes please provide further details below)</b> |                                     |                          |  |

## Decision Required – Supporting Information

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's CFO where the decision has financial implications)

The size of the contract is commercially sensitive. Payments by the Ministry of the Interior fully cover the cost of delivery of the training.

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

The contract is in accordance with UK and Bahraini law.

Equality and Diversity Implications

No specific equality and diversity implications

Human Rights Implications

The PCVC considers that the Agreement will help to promote human rights in Bahrain by improving the quality of evidence which is used by the police and prosecutors, and by increasing the extent to which prosecutions and convictions are based on objective evidence. He has also, with the agreement of the Foreign Office and the Ministry of the Interior, included a clause in the contract which ensures that British Policing's Code of Ethics applies in the delivery of the contract, and which enables Durham Constabulary to withdraw if the required standards in this respect are not being met. The proposal for the delivery of the training has been approved by UK Government Ministers and the International Policing Advisory Board, and has been subject to an Overseas Security and Justice Assessment.

Sustainability Implications

No specific sustainability implications

Risk Management Implications

See Human Rights section.

Consultation

Consultation has been carried out with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the British Embassy in Bahrain, the Home Office, the International Policing Advisory Board, the College of Policing, and the Ministry of the Interior, Bahrain.

### OFFICER APPROVAL

#### Chief Executive

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, and equalities advice has been taken into account. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed:



Date: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018

### Police and Crime Commissioner:

Signed:



Date: 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018

