

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA

Key Decision

Title and Reference PCC.390.2019

Single Online Home (SOH) and Police.uk services (Digital Public Contact) – Section 22 agreement.

Report of Neil Preston, Head of Communications and Engagement

Summary

The purpose of the following report is to seek approval and sign the Section 22 agreement, in relation to Single Online Home (SOH) and Police.uk services (Digital Public Contact).

Recommendation

That the agreement is signed by the Chief Constable and the Acting Commissioner.

Acting Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner

I hereby approve the recommendation above.

Signature



Date 02.07.19

Full Report for Decision/ Direction

Joint Business Meeting	27 June 2019
Single Online Home (SOH) and Police.uk services (Digital Public Contact) – Section 22 Agreement	
Report of Joscelin Lawson, Director of People and Development	
Author: James Crawford, ICT Project Manager	

1. PURPOSE

- 1.1 Further to the report presented to the Executive Team on Friday 7th March 2019, the purpose of the following report is to seek approval and sign the Section 22 agreement, in relation to Single Online Home (SOH) and Police.uk services (Digital Public Contact).

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 That the agreement is signed by the Chief Constable and the Commissioner.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Since February 2019, a number of updates have been received from CC Simon Cole in relation to progress with SOH transition, and the Section 22 agreement, reaffirming the need for all forces to sign the document by 14th June to secure the necessary governance and payment arrangements for the Police.uk service.
- 3.2 The current Police.uk service will transition to the SOH platform from 1st August 2019, with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) being the contracting authority.
- 3.3 In a recent programme update a revised product roadmap has been provided which details a significantly reduced number of services that are planned to be delivered. The revised roadmap has been agreed with the National Steering Group, to allow resources to be focused on transitioning additional forces to the platform. As a result, as it currently stands, there are currently no significant improvements to Northumbria's current service offering.
- 3.4 Both ICT and Communications and Engagement will continue to work with the national programme team, to monitor the progress of the platform and see how it evolves over the next 12 months. This will allow the Force to make an informed decision wherever to on-board to the SOH platform for our external website.
- 3.5 The Section 22 agreement has been reviewed by Legal Services, and signing the agreement means that Northumbria will be identified as a "Party". Only at the point of on-boarding to the SOH platform will Northumbria be identified as a "Participating Police Force" and therefore start paying towards the costs of the SOH platform. Signing at this point in time secures the necessary governance and payment arrangements for the Police.uk service going forward. While there is no obligation to on-board, as a Party, Northumbria Police are subject to a general requirement to work collaboratively in good faith towards on-boarding the SOH platform but this is a very vague obligation.
- 3.6 As stated in the most recent letter from CC Simon Cole (Appendix A), it states "All force Chief Constables and PCCs must sign the Section 22A Collaboration Agreement relating to SOH, irrespective of whether or not they intend to transition to SOH. This is because the S22 is crucial to securing the necessary governance and payment arrangements for Police.uk when it moves to SOH. **Importantly,**

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the S22 provisions related to SOH only take effect if and when a force on-boards to SOH and begins to receive services that are live for the public to use (e.g. online crime reporting through a force’s website).”

3.7 It should be noted that there is no formal exit mechanism from the Section 22 agreement in its entirety, therefore in the event the decision is made not to on-board to SOH, Northumbria would remain a “Party” and continue to subscribe to Police.uk services.

4. KEY OUTCOMES

4.1 The signing of this agreement secures the continuation of Police.uk services, with the ability to be released from the agreement unless the product significantly improves.

5. CONSIDERATIONS

Report Exemption	<i>Non-exempt</i>
Consultation	Yes
Consultation has taken place with Legal Services, ICT Department and Communications and Engagement.	
Resources:	Yes
Project resources identified by the national team would need to be factored in to the project plan (if and when the Force transitioned to SOH).	
Code of Ethics	<i>No</i>
Equality	<i>No</i>
Legal	Yes
Section 22 agreement has been received and feedback has been provided by Legal Department (consultation with Kevin McKernan). The signing of this agreement does not commit the Force to transitioning to the SOH platform, however it should be noted there is no mechanism to exit from the agreement, and no longer subscribe to Police.uk services.	
Risk	Yes
The DPC currently state that MOPAC will not take over the Police.uk service, unless all forces sign the Section 22 agreement.	
Communication	<i>No</i>
Evaluation	Yes
Engagement with the national team and other Forces would continue, to ensure we are fully aware of developments in the platform.	