

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR NORTHUMBRIA**

**Key Decisions**

**Title and Reference – Forensic Collision Investigation Network (FCIN) S22a Legal Agreement**

**Report of: Assistant Chief Constable Rachel Bacon**

**PCC.424.2020**

**Summary**

The Forensic Collision Investigation Network (FCIN) S22a legal agreement details the collaborative model, hosted by North Wales Police.

Forces are asked to sign the agreement to formalise the national agreement and begin the journey to on-board to the FCIN and achieve ISO 17020 accreditation in Forensic Collision Investigation by October 2022.

**Recommendation**

Members are asked to agree to sign the final version of the FCIN S22a legal agreement; to formalise the national collaboration of Forensic Collision Investigation accreditation.

**Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner**

I hereby approve the recommendations above.

**Signature**



**Date 28<sup>th</sup> August 2020**

<b>Business Meeting</b>	<b>27 August 2020</b>
<b>Forensic Collision Investigation Network (FCIN) S22a Legal Agreement</b>	
<b>Report of Assistant Chief Constable Rachel Bacon</b>	
<b>Author: Kirsty Potter, T/Head of Forensic Services</b>	

## **1. PURPOSE**

The Forensic Collision Investigation Network (FCIN) have finalised the S22a legal agreement that details the collaborative model, hosted by North Wales Police. Forces are asked to sign this agreement to formalise the national agreement and begin the journey to on-board to the FCIN and achieve ISO 17020 accreditation in Forensic Collision Investigation by October 2022.

## **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to agree to sign the final version of the FCIN S22a legal agreement; to formalise the national collaboration of Forensic Collision Investigation accreditation.

## **3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 In July 2019, all forces gave a commitment to support the FCIN in developing scientific methods and to realise a programme to bring the forensic collision investigation specialism into a single network of best practice. This network will facilitate the accreditation process of all its members and provide efficiency in defining and carrying out scientific methods and testing.
- 3.2 As a result of that decision, and the further financial backing from all Forces in March 2020, the FCIN has been created, the science built and the operating model defined. Forces are now being asked to sign the S22a legal agreement to legally formalise the collaboration and the host force arrangements.
- 3.3 The agreement details how North Wales Police will achieve ISO 17020 accreditation first, as the host force, then all forces and/or collaborations will work with the network as participating forces until they receive their own accreditation, at which point they will become full members of the FCIN.

## **FINANCIAL**

- 3.4 Payment has already been made for 2020-2021. The proposed future costs in the S22a legal agreement reflect an increase on the current MTFS provision, of £26.5k in 2021-2022 and £12.1k in 2022-2023. If approved, the budget will need to be increased to reflect the revised contributions.

## **LEGAL**

- 3.5 The final version of the S22a legal agreement has been reviewed and contains no issues or other problematic provisions and its terms and conditions are such as would be expected for an agreement of this nature.

#### 4. KEY OUTCOMES

- 4.1 Joining the FCIN will enable Northumbria Police to achieve ISO 17020 accreditation within a national collaborative model, ensuring standardised processes and national validation. Forces will support each other within the network with shared practices and peer review during this transition.
- 4.2 By working together within a single network of best practice Northumbria Police will be able to support the Police and Crime Plan with the most effective forensic collision investigations in support of criminal justice outcomes and increased community confidence.
- 4.3 Investing in the national network and strengthening our collaborative partnerships ensures Northumbria Police are able to continue to deliver outstanding forensic collision investigation.
- 4.4 Signing the S22a legal agreement will have no impact on existing policies and will enhance local service delivers as quality standards are implemented and accreditation achieved as part of the network.

#### 5. CONSIDERATIONS

Report Exemption	Non-exempt
<b>Consultation</b>	
<p>Consultation has taken place between the Northumbria Police Executive Team, Operations Department SMT, Forensic Services (Crime Department) Legal Department, Finance and NPCC Specialist Capabilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Deputy Chief Constable</li> <li>- Assistant Chief Constable (Crime, Safeguarding, CJ &amp; NERSOU)</li> <li>- Assistant Chief Constable (Local Policing and Ops)</li> <li>-Superintendent Operations Department</li> <li>- Inspector Motor Patrols</li> <li>- Head of Forensics Services</li> <li>- Force Lawyer (Employment &amp; Civil)</li> <li>- Principal Accountant</li> <li>- Head of FCIN</li> </ul> <p>No dissenting views have been received.</p>	
<b>Resources</b>	
<p>Financial considerations for membership beyond 2021, details in S22a and body of report. No staff implications.</p>	
<b>Code of Ethics</b>	
N/A	
<b>Equality</b>	
N/A	
<b>Legal</b>	
Legal implications considered during consultation, no issues raised.	
<b>Risk</b>	

Signing the agreement mitigates the risk of not being able to obtain ISO 17020 by the alternative deadline of March 2021 for any force that does not join the network.
<b>Communication</b>
N/A
<b>Evaluation</b>
N/A