


CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER DECISION RECORD – CPCC 2021-011	
Subject	Provision of Forensic Analysis Services under The Next Generation Forensic Framework Agreement
Decision	Approve & Sign Contract Extension
Decision Summary	<p>The Commissioner entered into contracts with four regional forensic suppliers (Soctotec, Key Forensic, Cellmark and Eurofins) in July 2015 for the provision of forensic analysis for Drugs, Toxicology, Case Work, PACE DNA and Crime Scene DNA. These contracts commenced on a 4 year plus 12-month extension period, with a further contract extension implemented in May 2020 until January 2022 based on national guidance. The Forensic Capability Network (FCN) has recommended a further contract extension be put in place covering from January 2022 to March 2023.</p> <p>1.2 The forensic market place has been increasingly unstable in recent years due to the limited number of suppliers and the constant focus on driving costs down. This has resulted in suppliers entering into contracts with unsustainable margins and has resulted in the FCN stepping in to undertake a market stabilisation exercise that saw an uplift in prices across all forensic services between 9% and 35%.</p> <p>1.3 The FCN is leading on a number of initiatives to improve market place conditions including standardising specifications and documentation and ensuring that all police forces are able to stagger their procurement activity. This will help ease the burden on the suppliers who typically have small bid teams that cannot cope with the sheer volume of tenders and differing documentation.</p> <p>1.4 The 7 Forces within Eastern Region are scheduled to undertake their re-procurement exercise second, after the West Midlands consortium. It is hoped that any lessons learnt can be captured and built in to our procurement exercise ensuring greater value, compliance and benefit to the forces.</p> <p>1.5 In line with the other forces in the Eastern Region Cambridgeshire Constabulary wishes to vary its contract with the four regional forensic suppliers for a further period of 14 months.</p> <p>1.6 Alan Gilbert, Joint Head of Forensic Services is fully sighted on the extension process and has briefed chief officers accordingly.</p> <p>2. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:</p>

	<p>2.1 The original value of the Eastern Region Spend on Forensics was estimated to be £39m but with an additional 18-month extension implemented last year the spend has increased to £52.6m.</p> <p>2.2 To date BCH have spent £9,729,740.77 with all 4 suppliers.</p> <p>2.3 The 14-month extension period is expected to incur an additional £9m of spending across the 7F region with the additional spend for Beds, Herts and Cambs estimated to be £2m</p> <p>3. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS:</p> <p>3.1 The extension period that this paper seeks approval for was not originally allowed for under the contract. This presents a risk of challenge to the constabulary. However, we plan on mitigating this risk by publishing a Voluntary Ex Ante Transparency notice on the UK e-Notification Service and implementing a 10-day standstill period as allowed for in the Public Contracts Regulations. As detailed above the market place for forensics is very small and it is unlikely that any challenge will be raised.</p> <p>3.2 Any failure to implement a contract extension could result in service disruption and off contract payments being issued to suppliers.</p>
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Background Papers	Regulation 84 report, SPGB Paper relating to Decision D043, Contract Addendums

Darryl Preston, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Police and Crime Commissioner	
I confirm that I have reached the above decision after consideration of the facts above.	
Signature 	Date 22/06/2021