ETHICS COMMITTEE

Additional Papers In-Principle

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Modelling to determine potential benefits of creating a Prisoner Handling Team in FCID

Outcome B
The Committee advises approving the project with minor amendments.

Recommendations:

- This proposal in principle raises few ethical issues, if any.
- In summary: This is a proposal for internal process monitoring or evaluation, as opposed to outright process change, and the qualitative experience of suspects, and the impact on their legal rights, is effectively nil. If the impact of this project is that relatively inexperienced officers are not dealing (as much) with assembling case files that are too complex for them, the overall public benefit would be desirable.
- It would have been useful to have been sent the legal advice and DPIA that have been/will be generated in relation to this proposal, however; and these should be supplied to the ethics committee in due course.
- It will be interesting to see to what extent this legal advice/DPIA considers any possibility of anonymisation/pseudonymisation of data being drawn down for this project in future.
- One qualitative consideration to be given to the overall analysis, is ensuring that whatever resource is dedicating to handling prisoners, that it continues to receive the same level of expertise and training in terms of health and safety, i.e. if there is to be a new formulation of skills or expertise within the applicable team, that there is no degradation in standards in respect of those handling prisoners or indeed running investigations.

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Impact Areas and Activities

Outcome B
The Committee advises approving the project with minor amendments.

Recommendations:

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| | | - This is potentially an extremely beneficial project - as it may allow for the validation of a central plank of the strategy for neighbourhood policing used by WMP.
- This proposal seems to be for only a retrospective, exploratory data analysis used in order for a current set of 'impact areas' to be justified. This is not as ethically contentious as the use of predictive 'hotspotting' software to direct police resources or 'patrols' such as 'Predpol'.
- It would have been useful to have been sent the legal advice and DPIA that have been/will be generated in relation to this proposal, however; and these should be supplied to the ethics committee in due course.
- The aim of this project is helpful, given the level of discussion and debate around the importance of police presence.
- A key issue to work through however, is being sure to carefully analyse the 'activities' that are being attributed to police presence and the impact of presence. For instance, the definition of 'problem solving' approaches might vary considerably, and so any assessment of such approaches needs real care to ensure patterns are being correctly identified or consistently.
- There also needs to be a proper analysis of co-variables that could be impacting on a trend, so as not to make erroneous assumptions about the effectiveness of a particular activity.
- Further, suitable comparisons between activities might be required, so as to ensure that the model does not purport advantages of a more intrusive method when a less intrusive method might have had the same effect. |
| | | **Use of Force Analysis**

Outcome B
The Committee advises approving the project with minor amendments.

Recommendations:

- As this proposal in principle highlights, this project would map the use of force in WMP in such a way that the force would be able to gain a better insight into its compliance with positive obligations under human rights duties.
- The ability of the force to be able to assess which individual or teams of officers are using force might be able to allow for targeted interventions, support and training - not necessarily punishment or condemnation of officers, but in providing help for them - as it cannot be easy to continually/repeatedly be required to use force on vulnerable/violent members of the public in alarming/risky situations. So there is a considerable possible benefit to the public, in terms of reduction in officers harming arrestees, for example, and a considerable possible benefit to the force, in better understanding strains on its own officers.
- It would have been useful to have been sent the legal advice and DPIA that have been/will be generated in relation to this proposal, however; and these should be supplied to the ethics committee in due course.
- No obvious ethical issues jump out, save that care should be taken to ensure that the model is not inadvertently used to justify more use of |

	force, if for example use of force is lower than expected in certain circumstances, or if on average certain teams were lower and the patterns identified are somehow used to suggest their average could rise without there being any concern.