

## National Oversight Group Minutes

**7th Meeting – Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015, 11am at  
Riverside House Southwark.**

**Attendees:**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Role</b>
Alex Marshall (Chair)	College of Policing
Sue Mountstevens	APCC
Mike Lupton	CT National Network (phone)
David Tucker	College of Policing
John Dilworth	CPS (phone)
Katerina Hadjimatheou	University of Warwick (by phone)
<b>Apologies:</b>	
Jon Boutcher	Chair, National Undercover Working Group
Rob Beckley	College of Policing
A psychologist	
Dr Chris Nathan	Warwick Interdisciplinary Ethics Research Group
Mick Creedon	NPCC Lead for Serious and Organised Crime
Ben Bowling	Dickson Poon School of Law
Joe McGuigan	HMRC

**1. Welcome & Introductions (Alex Marshall)**

1.1. Alex Marshall welcomed all attendees. Introductions were made

**2. Apologies noted**

**3. Previous minutes**

3.1. The minutes of 1<sup>st</sup> September 2015 had been circulated ahead of the meeting and were accepted as accurate and approved for publication on the College website.

#### **4. Actions**

- 4.1 David Tucker to update on Ben Bowling's research proposals – College staff met with Ben Bowling after the last Scrutiny Panel and discussed the research options. There was broad agreement that a starting point would be a systematic map / review of the literature. This proposal will be fed into the College priority list for work in 2016/17. If approved, the work will need to pass through the College approvals process.
- 4.2 David Tucker to set out options for including more external voices on the Panel. David Tucker explained that he has meetings arranged with two groups of people in the next week. The action should stay open for the next meeting.
- 4.3 Members were asked for feedback on the accreditation framework that had been described at the September meeting. No feedback was received and the framework will be used to underpin the College's accreditation work.
- 4.4 Terms of reference are on the agenda
- 4.5 The updated Action Plan is on the agenda

#### **5. Action Plan Update**

- 5.1 David Tucker and Jeff Hill presented the latest version of the Action Plan.
- 5.2 There has been much progress and it was agreed that the plan will be sent to members for their consideration and comments prior to publication in the College website.
- 5.3 The plan has been discussed on many occasions at the Panel and is publicly available at the House of Commons Library.
- 5.4 Discussion at the meeting focused on the need for police to be as transparent as possible. Authorised Professional Practice should be made public to the extent that this is possible. It was agreed that content should be public with only those areas that need to be restricted being redacted.
- 5.5 Panel members were keen to ensure that lessons learned about undercover policing are included in the APP. Alex Marshall was clear that APP is a College product and that he will have final sign off on the document. Learning from cases will figure in APP.
- 5.5 There was a discussion on drugs testing. The Panel was informed that forces have different policies on drugs testing and that the issue is clouded by the impact of employment law. Guidance for forces and individuals will be included in APP. The wording will need to guide forces and units on the need for a policy and implementation.

5.6 Panel members were strongly of the view that the HMIC recommendation that testing should be random was important to secure public confidence in the tactic. Jeff Hill explained that Jon Boutcher, as the Chair of National Undercover Working Group, had made it plain to chief constables that random drugs testing is the preferred policy for forces. However, the operational independence of forces means that chief constables cannot be compelled to adopt random testing.

5.6 Many of the issues included in the Action Plan have been the subject of presentations at the Panel e.g. accreditation, list of psychologists, etc.

**5.7 Action – Members to consider the contents of the Action Plan and feedback views.**

## **6. Public Inquiry Update**

6.1 David Tucker updated the Panel on the Public Inquiry.

6.2 The College and NPCC have been accorded 'core participant' status. The organisations will use the same legal counsel and discussions are taking place to finalise how the arrangement will work.

6.3 Alex Marshall has held discussions with the Inquiry team and it is likely that the College contribution will be in module 2, when policies and procedures are discussed. There will also be a role for the College in module 3 when future arrangements for undercover policing are discussed.

## **7 Terms of Reference**

7.1 At the previous Panel meeting it had been suggested that the terms of reference should be changed to allow the Panel to continue its work throughout the time of the Inquiry.

7.2 There had been support for the idea and revised terms of reference had been circulated ahead of this meeting.

**7.3 Action – Terms of reference to be circulated again and members invited to comment on the proposal to extend the life of the Panel to cover the period of the Inquiry.**

## **8. Any Other Business**

8.1 None raised

## **9. Date of Next Meeting**

9.1 11am, 19<sup>th</sup> January 2016, Riverside House, London, SE1 9HA

**National Undercover Oversight Group – Action Log**

<b>Date / Item</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Status</b>
1/9/15	David Tucker to find out the current position of any research proposal	David Tucker	Complete
1/9/15	David Tucker to present options on involving a broader group of people in Panel deliberations at the next meeting.	David Tucker	Open
1/9/15	Members to consider the contents of the presentation and feedback if there are matters that they consider are missing from the framework.	All	Complete
1/9/15	Place terms of reference on agenda for next meeting to consider continuing operating through 2016	David Tucker	Complete
1/9/15	Jon Boutcher to circulate an up to date copy of the action plan for the next meeting.	Jon Boutcher	Complete
3/11/15	Members to consider the contents of the Action Plan and feedback views.	All	
3/11/15	Terms of reference to be circulated again and members invited to comment on the proposal to extend the life of the Panel to cover the period of the Inquiry.	All	