

SIR SECURITY CLEARANCE PROCESSES IMPROVEMENT PLAN

Recommendation 1 The MPS's aim should be the creation of a single MPS Vetting Unit and that this unit sits within DPS, combining the functions of all current vetting units under one head, working to a common policy and se standards, supported by a robust, integrated IT infrastructure.					
Objective(s):		ting Unit to ensure a consistent, corporate and standardised approach to all vetting d develop this to allow for the transition towards e vetting.			
Link to strategic aim/priority	Integrity of MPS and indi	viduals			
Additional costs		1. Estimated savings/benefits			
 Scanning hardware & softw £20,000 & £15,000 Associated maintenance control Warrantor costs - £2,200 p additional 10 terminals Warrantor Server - £4,000 Estimated £30,000 cost of implementing combined or Recruitment estimate) 5 extra staff members to control 5 extra staff members to control 2 f 136,000 	osts - £3,000 per annum er terminal based on an designing and lline forms (HR	 Estimated saving of up to £200,000 per annum on repeat recruitment (£3,000 recruitment cost per potential employee – based on preventing up to 10% of current Police Staff withdrawals) Potential long term saving of a minimum of £70,000 per annum in postage and printing when moving to automated e-vetting environment – approx. £3 (per pack + postage) -assuming 75% move to e-vetting represents (based on estimate of application forms sent out per annum) Reduced costs in maintenance and renewal of PARASOL licences approx. £4,000 per annum (based on removal of 4 terminals) Faster vetting process leading to fewer good candidates lost through clearance delays and fewer unfilled vacancies reducing the reliance on overtime and temporary staff, leading to improved MPS service delivery. 			

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Non-quantifiable costs	Non-financial be	nefits		
A potential deterioration in service whilst vetting functions are amalgamated.	 More accurate audit trails and better case progression removing duplication of process, delays and inefficiency Flexibility in roles of staff Improvements in policy and standards including closer compliance with ACPO, Cabinet Office and Home Office policies Quicker application process due to fewer errors Provision of a customer focused service, single point of contact for Sponsor & other customers Increased robustness of MPS vetting checks, record keeping and sharing of traces with other Forces leading to a reduced likelihood of incidents in the MPS or other Forces as a result of failures to make use of police informatio 			er compliance with of contact for Sponsor keeping and sharing of od of incidents in the
Key actions to implement	Lead	Deadline	PI/Milestone	Target
 Combining the CTC administrative functions of PSG and SB Vetting Unit 	Head of MPS Vetting Unit/Head of SB Vetting Unit	By end June 2005	CTC functions of vetting under one governance, working to common policy and standards	Fully functional and operational MPS Vetting Unit.



 Ensuring that those checked by SO14 are done so to MPS standards 	Implementation Team /Cdr SO14	 SO14 representation on vetting board – by end June 2005 Transfer checks to new unit – by end March 2006 	SO14 applicants vetted according to MPS policy	
 Developing the current IT systems to prepare for the future 	Head of MPS Vetting Unit/Directorate of Information (Dol)	After March 2006	Warrantor link to SS is secured and recruitment & security application forms are combined on- line	



 Identifying whether it is appropriate to inc the functions of SO4 vetting units into the Vetting Unit 		 Ensure SO4 representation on Vetting Board – by end June 2005 Consider potential for transferring staff released from SO4 vetting unit into MPS Vetting Unit – by end March 2006 	SO4 rep. on vetting board Business case for staff transfer completed	
 Consider the potential for combining the vetting functions of PSG and SB Vetting whether this should be incorporated into Vetting Unit 	Jnit and Vetting	After March 2006	MPS Vetting Unit is functioning effectively, with CTC functions combined	



 Consider the potential for incorporating the DV vetting function of SB Vetting Unit into the MPS Vetting Unit 	Head of MPS Vetting Unit/Head of National Security Vetting MPS	After March 2006	MPS Vetting Unit is functioning effectively, with CTC functions combined	
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Recommendation 2 The MPS Vetting Board should revise Policy and Standard Operating Procedures, by the end of June 2005, personnel will not require National Security vetting clearance if this cannot be justified taking into account Office, Home Office and ACPO policy.							
Objective(s):		d economical process. To ensure accuracy and currency of MPS policy to iscriminate. To prevent candidates giving up and leaving the system due to es.					
Link to strategic aim/priority	Integrity of MPS and individuals						
Additional costs		Estimated savings/benefits					
 clearance levels appropria A more flexible approach t and conditions of employn 	o vetting will require amendments to terms nent and ongoing risk management ed with lower levels of clearance (including	 Estimated saving of up to £200,000 per annum on repeat recruitment (£3,000 recruitment cost per potential employee – based on preventing up to 10% of current Police Staff withdrawals). Faster vetting process leading to fewer unfilled vacancies, reducing the reliance on overtime and temporary staff. Reduced opportunity costs per annum of managing candidates through lengthy vetting processes. 					
Non-quantifiable costs		Non-financial benefits					
 Reduction in flexibility of th Risk management costs if promotion, location or job 	staff member fails a CTC clearance on	 Enabling a fairer, more transparent process to be developed, reducing the potential for appeals, tribunals or legal challenge to the MPS, widening the potential pool of applicants for MPS employment and reducing any potentially disproportionate impacts on VEM applicants. Improvements in policy and standards including closer compliance 					



	 with ACPO, Cabinet Office and Home Office policies. Checks carried out will be appropriate to the requirements of reducing the workload for the vetting units. 			
Key actions to implement	Lead	Deadline	PI/Milestone	Target
 Risk Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment of new process and policy. 	Chair MPS Vetting Board remitted to Head of PSG	May 2005	Assessments complete	Allowing certain Police Staff to be employed with IVC clearance
 Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) and policy re-written to incorporate change. 	Chair MPS Vetting Board remitted to Head of PSG	June 2005	Revised SOP and policy documents	only.
3. Publish and publicise SOP and new policy.	Chair MPS Vetting Board remitted to Ch. Supt DPS	End of June 2005	Documents and Notice published	
4. Invite initial business cases for exemption of CTC clearance.	Chair MPS Vetting Board remitted to Ch. Supt DPS	End of June 2005	Articles and Notice issued.	
Education of MPS employees with respect to new policy and associated risk management.	Chair MPS Vetting Board	Ongoing from July 2005	Awareness of new policy and process	
6. Sponsors submit business cases.	Sponsors	From August 2005	First case submitted	
 Assess potential benefits and risk management costs for identified posts. 	Chair MPS Vetting Board	October 2005	First posts assessed	



 When case is proven for identified posts, advise the relevant units to implement the new policy (and set dates for review). 	Chair MPS Vetting Board	Ongoing	Police Staff employed with only IVC clearance	
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Recommendation 3 A pilot process to test the viability of granting interim clearances should be developed by the end of March 2000					
Objective(s):	To produce a more efficient, effective an system due to the length of time the vett	d economical process. To prevent candidates giving up and leaving the ing process takes.			
Link to strategic aim/priority	Integrity of MPS and individuals				
Additional costs		Estimated savings/benefits			
 pilot: Opportunity costs per annuclearance levels appropriate Ongoing risk management 	arim clearances following a successful um of identifying, and reviewing, the	 Given the implementation of interim clearances following a successful pilot: Estimated saving of up to 200,000 per annum (£3,000 recruitment cost per potential employee – based on preventing up to 10% of current Police Staff withdrawals). Faster vetting process leading to fewer unfilled vacancies, reducing the reliance on overtime and temporary staff. Reduced opportunity costs per annum of managing candidates through lengthy vetting processes. 			
Non-quantifiable costs		Non-financial benefits			
post.	staff member fails a CTC clearance in o vetting will require amendments to aployment	Widening the potential pool of applicants for MPS employment and reducing any potentially disproportionate impacts on VEM applicants.			



Key action	ons to implement	Lead	Deadline	PI/Milestone	Target
1.	Identification of 'example' Police Staff posts that require a CTC but would need only limited risk management prior to receiving CTC clearance.	Chair MPS Vetting Board	September 2005	Posts identified.	A pilot process is established to allow certain Police Staff to
2.	The benefits and risk management costs of allowing interim clearances for these 'example' posts should be assessed to prove the business case.	Vetting Working Group	December 2005	Costs, benefits & risks assessed.	be employed with IVC clearance
3.	If the business case is proved then the granting of interim clearances to 'example' posts should be trialled to test the robustness and the operation of the risk management approach (such as restricted passes, escort and supervision).	Chair MPS Vetting Board and CGSC	January 2006	Pilot implemented.	— pending CTC.



Recommendation 4	U U	Changes are made, by the end of March 2006, to the way the current Management Vetting process is carried out.				
Objective(s):	To produce a more efficient, effective and economical process. To ensure accuracy and currency of MPS policy to comply with national standards and not discriminate. To address barriers to effective communication and improve customer focus within the MV process while maintaining robustness of the process.					
Link to strategic aim/priority	Integrity of	MPS and individuals				
Additional costs	Estimated savings/benefits					
 Abstraction costs of two vetting being present at each interview interview). 	 Faster vetting process leading to fewer unfilled vacancies, reducing the reliance on overtime and temporary staff. Increased robustness of MPS MV checks. 					
Non-quantifiable costs	Non-financial benefits					
• Nil		A more efficient, customer focused service.Closer compliance with ACPO policy.				
		 MV checks carried out will be appropriate to the requirements of the post. 				
		 Opportunities for monitoring effectiveness of the system and identifying areas for improvement. 				



Key actions to implement	Lead	Deadline	PI/Milestone	Target
 4.1 - Mandatory interviewing of all MV applicants is discontinued. Senior Vetting Officers should exercise discretion whether an interview is necessary on an exception basis. As a general rule ACPO criteria should be used and interviews should only be conducted to clarify queries, ambiguities or concerns raised during the vetting process. 	Head of PSG	November 2005	 Equalities Impact Assessment undertaken SOP re-written Process Implemented 	Implementation of a new MV process.
 4.2 - The MV Unit should produce a clear, effective feedback process for MV, so that candidates can give feedback on their experience of the process. 	Head of PSG	November 2005	 Development of Proforma Process Implemented 	
 4.3 - The designation of a post as MV is done through close collaboration between PSG and the Head of the Unit responsible for the post. The recent pilot with SCD units to be used as good practice. 	Head of PSG	 Good practice documented by July 2005 Then process ongoing 	 Ability to effectively designate all MV posts across MPS and provide reviews as required. 	



4.	4.4 - Staffing levels within the MVU are increased to the original BWT of 12 (currently included in DPS growth bid). Grades of staff to be appointed are to be reviewed.	Head of PSG	August 2005	 To achieve a fully staffed MV Unit. 	
5.	4.5 - Implement the MPS Inspectorate recommendation (March 2003) of having 2 staff present at each MV interview.	MVU PSM	November 2005	 SOP re-written 2 officers present at interviews in all cases. 	
6.	4.6 - Each MV applicant to be allocated a specific caseworker, who will provide a single point of contact (SPOC) for the applicant during the process. The MV Unit to provide a dedicated answer phone for out of hours response.	MVU PSM	September 2005	All MV applicants know their SPOC within the MV Unit and have their contact details. Helpline goes live.	
7.	4.7 - Each member of the MV Unit to be provided with appropriate interviewing training before conducting MV interviews.	Head of PSG	March 2006	All staff conducting MV interviews are trained to the appropriate level.	

Recommendation 5	The MPS Vetting Boar database checks shou	d to determine, by the end of March 2006, the extent to which Special Branch Id be carried out.
Objective(s):	Ensuring the accuracy that the policy does no	and currency of MPS policy to comply with national standards and ensuring t discriminate.
Link to strategic aim/priority	Integrity of MPS and in	dividuals
Additional costs		Estimated savings/benefits
 Opportunity costs of approach annum based on the assu 10.2.3. If no efficiencies of aspects of vetting this cou additional Full Time Equiv 	mptions in Section an be found in other Id mean up to 0.15	• Nil.
 Accommodation costs of a required. 	any additional staff	
 Costs in providing training Branch databases. 	and access to Special	
 Opportunity costs of up to £66,000 per annum if cher for all vetting candidates a relations, based on the as 10.2.3. If no efficiencies of aspects of vetting this cou additional Full Time Equiv 	cks are implemented and their close sumptions in Section an be found in other Id mean up to 2.5	
 Opportunity costs of at lea checks are carried out for 		



based on the assumptions in Section 10.2.3.				
Non-quantifiable costs	Non-financi	al benefits		
 Potential to slow down vetting if the checks are under-resourced or demand is greater than anticipated. 	 Increation of increation of inc	ased robustne idents in the N e information. number of Po ced then the ir	with ACPO and Home Off ess of MPS vetting, leading MPS or other Forces from blice Staff posts that requir ntroduction of Special Bran e extra reassurance.	to a reduced likelihood failure to make use of e CTC clearance is
Key actions to implement	Lead	Deadline	PI/Milestone	Target
 5.1 - Checks against MPS Special Branch databases should be reintroduced for prospective MPS Police Officers (but not their partners, spouses or close relatives) 	Chair MPS Vetting Board	September 2005	 Process & responsibilities agreed. SOP & Policy written 	MPS to produce and implement a policy on Special Branch vetting checks. All new Police recruits are checked against
 5.2 - Special Branch should provide the MPS Vetting Board with an assessment of the extent to which Special Branch systems checks could benefit the robustness of vetting. 	Head of SB Vetting	January 2006	 Report prepared & submitted 	MPS Special Branch databases.



 5.3 - The MPS Vetting Board should decide on the extent to which the MPS should check both MPS and other Police Forces' Special Branch databases for prospective Police Staff and Non Police Personnel, and for candidates' partners, spouses or close relatives 	Chair MPS Vetting Board	March 2006	 Decision made based on evidence 	
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Recommendation 6					cation of residency criteria, ce, ACPO and the Security
Objective(s):	Ensuring the accuracy ar policy does not discriminate	•	MPS policy to comp	ly with national stanc	lards and ensuring that the
Link to strategic aim/priority	Integrity of the MPS & inc	dividuals			
Additional costs		Estimated s	avings/benefits		
 Opportunity costs per annu applicants' expectations for 		• Nil			
Cost of searches in countr	es that may charge				
Non-quantifiable costs		Non-financia	al benefits		
 Risk of taking on someone than now 	with less rigorous checks	the po widen	otential for appeals, ing the potential po	tribunals or legal cha ol of applicants for MI	
Key actions to implement		Lead	Deadline	PI/Milestone	Target
 Prepare a case for adoptin approach to the application 		DCS PSG	June 2005	Proposal exists	Agreed approach to flexible application of policy
2. Consult key internal and ex	kternal stakeholders	Chair MPS Vetting Board	June 2005	Views of key stakeholders	





Recommendation 7	That the MPS agrees a Service Level Agree input to the vetting process.	ement (SLA) wi	th the Securi	y Service, by the end	of June 2005, for its
Objective(s):	Preventing external candidates from giving uprocess takes.	up and leaving th	e system bec	ause of the length of tir	me the clearance
Link to strategic aim/priority	Integrity of MPS and individuals				
Additional costs		Estimated sav	vings/benefit	S	
Ongoing cost of ensuring the SLA with the Security Servious SLA with the Security Servious Servious Statement (Statement Statement	ne MPS is meeting the requirements of the ce.	• Nil.			
Non-quantifiable costs		Non-financial	benefits		
• Nil				ntify areas for improven more control over the p	-
Key actions to implement		Lead	Deadline	PI/Milestone	Target
1. Identify areas to incorporate within the SLA		Head of PSG / SB Vetting Unit	June 2005	MPS document for SLA produced	To have a working SLA in place with the
2. Meet with Security Servi	ce representative and establish SLA	Head of PSG / SB Vetting Unit Head	June 2005	SLA parameters established	Security Service
 Ensure relevant MPS sta and implement policy 	aff members are aware of SLA requirements	Head of PSG / SB Vetting Unit Head	End of June 2005	Policy in place	



4. Record and monitor effectiveness of SLA	Head of PSG / SB Vetting Unit Head	Ongoing	Features in Monthly Management Reports	
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Recommendation 8	The MPS should, by the end of June 20 difference in approach followed for checkin				
Objective(s):	Preventing external candidates from giving process takes.	up and leaving	g the system bed	cause of the length of time	e the clearance
Link to strategic aim/priority	Integrity of MPS and individuals				
Additional costs		Estimated	savings/benefi	ts	
• Nil		• Nil.			
Non-quantifiable costs		Non-financ	cial benefits		
• Nil		enal • Ena redu the emp	ble areas for imp bling a fairer, mo ucing the potenti MPS, widening to bloyment and rec	g of the Security Service provement to be identified ore transparent process t al for appeals, tribunals o the potential pool of appli ducing any potentially dis	b o be developed, or legal challenge to cants for MPS
Key actions to implement		Lead	acts on VEM ap Deadline	PI/Milestone	Target
1. Contact relevant personi	nel at the Security Service	Head of PSG	May 2005	Contact established	Clear policy is implemented in
2. Security Service advice	cross-checked with MPS Diversity Policy	Head of PSG	June 2005	Policy acceptable to MPS	line with MPS Diversity Policy
3. Standard Operating Proc publicised amongst relev	cedure (SOP) and new policy written and vant vetting units.	Head of PSG	End of June 2005	SOP and policy implemented	

Recommendations 9-13	To ensure governance and recommendations from the terms of terms o	rrangements are in place, by the end of June 2005, for implementing the his and previous reviews
Objective(s):	Ensuring the accuracy ar policy does not discrimination	nd currency of MPS policy to comply with national standards and ensuring that the ate.
Link to strategic aim/priority	Integrity of the MPS & inc	dividuals
Additional costs		Estimated savings/benefits
 Cost of Implementation Teaper annum (based on 3 full and 2 Band Ds for 1 year) Opportunity costs per annugovernance arrangements consultation and assessmet Opportunity costs per annumaintaining a process for for Home Forces 	time members: 1 Band C m of supporting e.g. carrying out ent m of setting up and	 Potential savings per annum of time spent on appeals or tribunals Potential to prevent an incident in another Force, using information on traces
Non-quantifiable costs		Non-financial benefits
• Nil		 Ensuring the MPS vetting policy is fair Identification of areas for improvement in problems associated with risk (through further ICG research)



Key a	ctions to implement	Lead	Deadline	PI/Milestone	Target
1.	Set up an action plan to implement the issues and recommendations remitted to the Vetting Board (including monitoring progress)	Chair MPS Vetting Board remitted to Implementation Team	June 2005	Action plan drafted	Issues and Recommendations implemented
2.	Set up an action plan to identify solutions to the issues remitted to the Vetting Working Group	Chair MPS Vetting Working Group	June 2005	Action plan drafted	Solutions agreed by Vetting Board
3.	Set up a process for carrying out Equalities Impact Assessments on future policy decisions	Chair MPS Vetting Board remitted to Implementation Team	June 2005	Proposed process exists	Equalities impact assessments are carried out for every policy decision
4.	Set up a process for feeding back traces to Home Forces	Chair MPS Vetting Board remitted to Head of PSG	June 2005	Process exists	Information provided to other Forces

Recommendation 14	A comprehensive system vetting process, using the collecting the data				g the performance of the sts and benefits of
Objective(s):	Ensuring the accuracy ar policy does not discriminate		MPS policy to cor	nply with national stand	lards and ensuring that the
Link to strategic aim/priority	Integrity of the MPS & inc	dividuals			
Additional costs		Estimated sa	avings/benefits		
 Cost of changes to current monitoring 	IT systems to enable	 Oppo 	rtunities to identify	/ areas for improvemen	t in the vetting process
 Opportunity costs per annu analysing data 	Im of collecting and				
 Opportunity cost of ICG tin development of the system 					
Non-quantifiable costs		Non-financia	I benefits		
• Nil		the po widen	tential for appeals	transparent process to s, tribunals or legal chai pool of applicants for MF disproportionate impac	PS employment and
Key actions to implement		Lead	Deadline	PI/Milestone	Target
 Establish which areas of th monitored 	e process are to be	Head of PSG	June 2005	Areas identified	New system in place



2.	Assess the management information required, including consideration of the costs and benefits of collecting the data	Head of PSG	August 2005	Management information identified
3.	Amend existing IT systems to provide the required information	Head of PSG	By end of August 2005	Required changes identified