Open Source Intelligence Gathering Within the UK Police National Intelligence Model (NIM)

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The national model for high-tech crime has already been established within the structure of the National High-tech Crime Unit (NHTCU) and comprises Investigations and Digital Evidence Recovery supported by Intelligence and Tactical and Technical Services. At present there is no model in placewithin the MPS to address the challenges of local or cross-border high-tech crime. Such a model will need to comply will the elements of the National Intelligence Model (NIM) as established by the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS).

NIM provides a basis for taking forward UK criminal intelligence operations and for elements of partnership working for all law enforcement agencies and has also been adopted by some regulatory bodies. The NIM is grounded in experience of the strategies and tactics that are effective in reducing crime and the opportunities for crime. The NIM suggests three 'levels' of business:

- **Local,**
- **Cross-border and**
- **Serious and organised crime.**

The model consists of four components that are fundamental to achieving the objective of moving from 'the business' to 'outcomes':

- **Tasking and co-ordinating process,**
- **Four key intelligence products,**
- **Knowledge products, and**
- **System products**

These are described in paragraph 5.

NCIS describes the four key intelligence products as:

- *The strategic assessment,*
- *The tactical assessment, the*
- *Target profile and the*
- *Problem profile.*

45

The tasking and coordinating group is dependent upon the production of the four intelligence products. Standardisation of the intelligence products will allow their aggregation to inform a clearer, wider picture, not constricted by local or force boundaries, and can inform management decision-making and direction at a higher level.

Knowledge products and system products underpin the tasking and coordination process, as the fundamental enablers of sound law enforcement intelligence work.

Knowledge products (national or local) define the rules for the conduct of the business or the best practice by which skilled processes are completed, and under what conditions work between agencies may take place.

System products relate to the systems and facilities necessary for the secure collection, recording, reception, storage, linkage, analysis and use of the information.

A combination of the nine analytical techniques in the model forms the basis of these products."

The Home Office describes the nine analytical techniques as, "Being produced to allow managers to have a more detailed picture of crime and disorder. Whilst each technique stands alone they are more potent when combined with the other techniques in producing the assessments. The techniques described can only be produced by appropriately trained analysts and, therefore, these descriptions only provide an insight into each of the techniques. It will be the discretion of the analyst and the agencies managers in deciding which technique is appropriate in a given set of circumstances."

They are described as:

- **Crime Pattern Analysis** - Crime pattern analysis is a generic term for a number of related analytical disciplines. It looks for the linkages between crimes and other forms of offending to reveal similarities and differences.

  It can help to reveal the relationships between crimes and offer opportunities to link committed offences quickly to possible offenders. It identifies where prevention and diversion initiatives will be the most effective and reveals new and emerging trends for subsequent analysis.

- **Demographic/Social Trend Analysis** - This type of analysis is centred on an examination of the nature of demographic changes and their impact on crime and disorder as well as on the deeper analysis of social factors recorded by the other partners such as unemployment, homelessness and truancy, which might underlie changes or trends in crime and disorder.

  When the data is aggregated it provides a valuable input to inform and influence national and local policymaking. Through the joining together of the partner's data this form analysis will help illuminate where future pressures are likely to arise for the partnership.

- **Market Profiles** - A market profile is an assessment, continually reviewed and updated, that surveys the criminal market around a particular commodity, such as drugs or stolen vehicles, or of a service, such as prostitution in an area.

  It will detail how active the market is, the trends in availability and price of the commodities or services, the key individuals, networks, criminal assets and associated trends in related criminality which are driven by or connected to the criminal market.

  The production and maintenance of market profiles demands an investment of resources, which requires it to be focused on the problems given priority by the strategic tasking and co-ordination group.

- **Criminal Business Profiles** - These profiles contain detailed analysis of how criminal operations or techniques work, in the same way that legitimate businesses may be explained.

  The profile, therefore, examines all aspects of the way criminals operate, including how victims are selected, how the crime is committed, methods of disposing and removing of the proceeds and the weaknesses in systems and procedures which the criminal exploits.

  The use of these profiles will identify key points for partnership working, predict criminal activities, highlight crime reduction potential and allow the training of professionals to be informed by the techniques used by criminals.

- **Network Analysis** - Network analysis describes not just the linkages between people who form crime and disorder networks, but also the significance of the links, the roles played by individuals and the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation.

This analysis will inform decision makers of the most important networks to tackle as a priority and how best to undermine them. The analyst's assessment of the continuing resilience of the network will be an important factor in measuring the success of the partner's activity.

- **Profile Analysis** - This form of analysis uses a range of analytical techniques to describe an individual, the crime and disorder engaged in, lifestyle, associations and the risk posed to enable the partners to work effectively together when tackling an individual.

- **Results Analysis** - This is a new discipline, which evaluates the effectiveness of partnership activities. The technique may be used to identify best practice and highlight areas for improvement. Results analysis can also be a valuable tool for monitoring the progress of plans.

- **Risk Analysis** - This is a relatively new analytical technique, which has emerged from case law concerning duties of care, the Human Rights Act. Risk analysis, therefore, assesses the scale of risks posed by individual offenders or organisations to potential victims, the public at large and to the partners. It aims to provide reassurance that risks involving apparently isolated incidents are being correctly assessed.

It is important for the partnership to know if apparently isolated events are in fact part of a larger pattern or trend to which growing or greater risks attach. It will assist in the deciding of priorities when dealing with individuals or problems.

Essentially, the general rule of proportionality under the Human Rights Act will need to be applied to achieve the appropriate solution for the nature of the problem. Under the Human Rights Act, any restriction of rights must be justified in that a fair balance must be achieved between the protection of an individual's right and the general interests of society.

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Return to Electronic Index Page