

Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner Record of Decision

Decision Detail	DFU Data server for local storage requirements
Business Area	Estates
Decision No:	031 - 2023
Date	Oct 2023
Protection marker	Official

Executive Summary

The recommendation seeks approval for to purchase new ICT infrastructure for the DFU department.

DFU are responsible for the forensic recovery, examination and presentation of evidence found on technology. For evidential integrity and due to the sensitivity of these investigations a dedicated infrastructure with servers, storage, and secure network is required.

The exponential increase in data growth means policing must be able to secure and handle ever increasing amounts of data into the future. The need was identified in the most recent Technology Strategy and as such in the capital plan.

Decision:

The Commissioner is asked to authorise the purchase of servers for DFU.

Implications

Please read appendix A in regard to this supporting information

Has considerations been taken following:	Yes	No
Financial	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Legal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Equality and Diversity	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sustainability	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Risk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

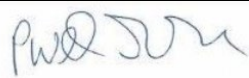
Additional comments

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Police and Crime commissioner comments

I have read the documents and I confirm the decision to proceed as recommended.

Signed:



Date: 28/06/2023

Financial Implications: (Must include comments of the PCC's Chief Finance Officer where the decision has financial implications)

Comments: The overall cost is £0.586m, with a capital allocation of £0.750m resulting in a £0.186m release of funds for other capital projects.

Legal Implications: (Must include comments of the Monitoring Officer where the decision has legal implication)

Comments: There are no legal implications.

Equality and Diversity Implications

Comments: There are no equality and diversity implications.

Sustainability Implications

Comments: The new technology will be more energy efficient and reduce the server carbon footprint.

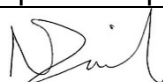
Risk Management

Comments: This investment is required to reduce the risk exposed through use of the 2014 infrastructure.

Monitoring Officer Approval

I have been consulted about the decision and confirm that financial, legal, sustainability, and equalities advice has been considered. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signed:



Dated: 29/06/2023

Naji Darwish

Public Access to Information: APPENDIX A

<p>Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and other legislation. Part 1 of this form will be made available on the Commissioner's website within 2 working days of approval. Any facts / advice / recommendations that should not be made automatically available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form.</p>	
<p>Is there a Part 2 form?</p> <p>If yes, for what reason: Disclosure of information in Part 2 Commercial sensitivity and may be a breach of terms of the Lease</p>	

Date	June 2023
Report Title	Data Forensics Unit (DFU) Server Replacement
Report presented by	Clive Barker
Author	Clive Barker (CFO) /Mark Levitt (Head of ICT)

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. This paper requests approval to purchase new infrastructure for the DFU replacing the current servers which were procured in 2014. The need was identified in the Technology Strategy and as such £0.750m is earmarked for this in the capital plan.

BACKGROUND

2. The DFU previously known as High Tech Crime Unit, are responsible for the forensic recovery, examination and presentation of evidence found on laptops, mobile phones and associated digital storage devices. The correct handling of computers, mobile phones and digital devices is paramount to their evidential integrity.
3. Data Forensics involves the securing of electronic data from computers, mobile phones and any digital device capable of storing data, the scientific analysis of that data, and the subsequent presentation of the findings in a concise and meaningful way that is evidentially acceptable to the court. Due to the sensitivity of these investigations the DFU work on a dedicated infrastructure with their own servers, storage, and secure network.
4. With the exponential increase in data growth (currently doubling worldwide every 2 years), Policing must be able to secure and handle vastly increased amounts of data in the future.

5. Whilst the DFU are part of South West Forensics it is up to each Force to provide local storage and infrastructure. It is expected that this will be the case for the foreseeable future

PROPOSAL

6. The attached report from the Head of ICT details the options which have been considered and the strategy to hold 'cold' archived data in low cost cloud storage (at £600 per month) whilst keeping 'hot' live data which requires fast, quick access on storage housed on prem. This solution will save time as the current process involves the team storing data on tapes. Currently the team place case work into a specific folder when ready for archiving. On a bi-monthly basis the contents of this folder are then transferred to tapes in MOPI categories, keeping a catalogue of each case and which tape it is stored on. This process can take a number of days due to the size of the cases and organisation of the categories and removes them from actually working on cases.
7. The option proposed in the report is via XMA for a HP/Qumolo solution. The solution proposed uses latest technology with higher levels of storage and faster speeds. On this solution the live space will increase from 480 TB to 1350 TB with options to expand in the future if necessary.

PROCUREMENT

8. To obtain prices we must work with suppliers to understand what is needed for the whole system to work effectively and efficiently. In doing this the supplier must be on a framework, they then work at risk building up the need. In return the main provider (HP) will only allow the developing supplier (XMA) to quote. SWPPS have been involved with this and have agreed that the XMA price is the best we could have achieved and is legally compliant.
9. The option is therefore to choose between different solutions. As identified in the attached paper the choice can be summarised as below;

4 x Dell H500/ 4 x A200	£0.544m	2017 Technology, low speed
6x Dell A300	£0.795m	2021 Technology, moderate speed
7 x HPE Qumolo A240T	£0.586m	2022 Technology, fast speed

10. Based on this the HP/Qumolo is considered the best option via XMA. XMA have informed us that there will be a 60-90 day lead in before the install so it is expected that the new infrastructure will be in place by the end of the calendar year.

FINANCES

11. The quotes shows the overall cost is £0.586m. With a capital allocation of £0.750m this should result in £0.186m being released for other capital projects.

12. The increase in productivity in the DFU team should also reduce the need for expensive outsourcing of cases.

RISK ASSESSMENT

13. This investment is required to reduce the risk we are currently exposed to with the 2014 infrastructure. There are more frequent failures of switches and associated issues which pose a reputational and operational.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

14. Modern technology is required to be more energy efficient and as such there should be a positive impact on our carbon footprint.

RECOMENDATION

15. The PCC is asked to agree to the entering into a contract with XMA to provide the solution at a cost of £0.586m.