

**Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner**  
**Notice of Decision**



<b>Author:</b>	Gerard Milano
<b>Telephone number:</b>	310 2439
<b>E-mail address:</b>	Gerard.milano@nottinghamshire.pnn.police.uk
<b>For Decision or Information</b>	Decision
<b>Date received*:</b>	28 <sup>th</sup> June 2016
<b>Ref*:</b>	2016.034

\*to be inserted by Office of PCC

**TITLE: APPLICATION TO USE POLICE PROPERTY ACT FUNDS (OPERATION MERCURY)**

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to request £90,000 to fund 5½ temporary staff and a limited amount of overtime for 9 months at Grade A4A from the Police Property Act Fund to provide 38% of the resources required to initiate Phase 2 of Operation Mercury. Budget provision for the 5½ temporary staff is estimated at £81k with £9k (10% of the budget) set aside for overtime. As Op Mercury Phase 3 impacts on all A&E Stores across the Force, the overtime is provided in order to action the anticipated increase in disposal at locations where no additional temporary staff are sited. The remaining 62% funding (funding officers on restricted duties) is provided by using existing Force Budgets/Resources.

Operation Mercury is an initiative which Nottinghamshire Police is progressing as part of its Delivering the Future and Niche Technology Agendas to initiate a large scale reduction in superfluous exhibits/property holdings which are no longer required evidentially. The College Of Policing Guidance on the Management of Police Information (MOPI) has lengthened the periods of time some evidential items are required. The changes in the Forces Estates and reduction in overall buildings mean that existing storage needs to be managed closely.

Operation Mercury will rationalise the materials held by the Force so that the current storage capacity can be used in the most efficient and effective way to preserve those items required evidentially. Operation Mercury will also provide the Force with assurances around its compliance with legislation, reduce risk and ensure that data needing to be transferred to NICHE is minimised. Without Operation Mercury additional funding and resources will be required in the coming years to manage the volumes of materials being held by the Force, so this is an invest to save scheme.

**INFORMATION IN SUPPORT OF DECISION: (e.g report or business case)**

Operation Mercury Phase 3: Business Case

**FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

The funding requested is from the Police Property Act Fund for £90k to fund 5½ temporary staff and a limited amount of overtime for 9 months at Grade A4A. Budget provision for the 5½ temporary staff is estimated at £81k with £9k (10% of the budget) set aside for overtime. The Police Property Act Fund is an earmarked ring fenced reserve held by the Force under the Police Property Act 1897 and 1997 and can only be used to defray the costs of managing property or donated to charity. This fund sits outside the Forces Revenue and Capital Budget and the current cash balance sitting in this account is £126k. There are no additional revenue or capital costs directly associated with this report.

In addition to the cash sum held in the Police Property Act Fund, each year the Force donates significant volumes of unclaimed/unidentifiable property items to charitable causes which link to our Policing Priorities (equating to a minimum of £18k just for cycles). Any suitable items which are to be disposed of as part of Operation Mercury will be donated to our approved list of charitable schemes to be used for the benefit of Nottinghamshire communities.

Signature: [REDACTED]  
**Chief Finance Officer**


Date: 8<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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<b>Is any of the supporting information classified as non-public or confidential information**?</b>	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
If yes, please state under which category number from the guidance**	3, 5, 7 (Crime/Security)			


**DECISION:**  
Approval for £90,000 of the funds held within the Police Property Act Fund Reserve to be used in line with the Police Property Act legislation to fund Operation Mercury.

**OFFICER APPROVAL**  
I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that the appropriate advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Signature:  Date: 13/7/16  
**Chief Executive**

**DECLARATION:**  
I confirm that I do not have any disclosable pecuniary interests in this decision and I take the decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Nottinghamshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Any interests are indicated below:

The above request has my approval.

Signature:  Date: 18/7/16  
**Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner**

\*\* See guidance on non public information