

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner
Notice of Decision



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For Decision or Information	
Date received*:	03.06.15
Ref*:	2015.036

*to be inserted by Office of PCC

TITLE: International Student Safety Project

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

£4277.00 funding is requested from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Nottinghamshire to support a pilot research project to look at the safety perceptions and experiences of Chinese students in Nottingham. The costs are matched by the University of Nottingham at £6888.00.

Students from both the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University will be surveyed, and a smaller number invited to focus groups which will be conducted in their native language - Mandarin.

Findings will inform future practice for both Universities, the Police, local councils and accommodation providers in matters relating to the on-going safety of international students.

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

A research proposal has been received (please refer to this for more detail).

Nottingham and the UK host a large number of international students, who not only make a remarkable contribution to the national and regional economy but diversify populations both in campus and local communities and cities. It can be argued that compared with local residents, international students – through their lack of familiarity and ease with local institutions - are likely to be more vulnerable to burglary, street crime and discrimination.

How safe do international students feel in the local community and the city? What are their perceptions and experience of crime and safety issues in the city? The extent to which we understand these experiences could not only help us provide better protection to international students and enhance their overall experience, but also build better integrated local communities with diverse cultures.

A research group was established with academics from various disciplines and other stakeholders across the University of Nottingham and Nottingham Trent University, leading to an agreement to conduct a pilot project with a focus on Chinese students.

The overall aim of this project is to improve our understanding of the perceptions and experiences of crime and safety issues amongst Chinese students in the city of Nottingham in order to provide better mechanisms to minimise the risks and tackle issues that emerge from the study. To achieve this, the proposed project will pursue the following objectives:

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- Assess the nature and quality of the data currently available ;
- Explore Chinese students' experiences of, and attitudes towards, crime and safety in the wider context of being an international student;
- Offer an analysis of Chinese students' own perceptions of how various factors influence their perceptions of 'feeling safe' and what strategies they adopt to cope with any uncertainty;
- Compare students' account of their concerns, priorities and coping strategies with the perceptions of university support services, the police force and other service providers; and
- Facilitate different stakeholders to work together to support international students on physical safety, housing and welfare issues.

Methodology: On-line survey, focus group interviews, individual interviews (including with stakeholders) and literature review.

Expected outcomes: Completion by early September in order to inform PCC Strategic Needs Assessment; Dissemination to all the stakeholders, including a half day workshop to share and discuss the research findings and develop mechanisms for improving students' safety and enhance their experience as a whole; Production of a visual safety toolkit for international students; Presenting findings to national conference to reach a wider audience; Contribute extra information on international student safety issues to the nottmstudents.com website; Contribute to the Police Community Safety Project; support universities in making their policies around safer accommodation for international students more robust; Contribute to the University of Nottingham's campaign on the 'Race Equality Charter Mark'; Contribute to an understanding of international students' staying for work after graduation.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION (please include if is it capital or revenue or both. What the split is and the totals being requested. Is this a virement / something already budgeted for or something that requires additional funding. Are there any savings that can be offered up/or achieved)

£4277.00 is requested from the OPCC. This is made up of travel at £80.00, and casual staff, transcribing and report costs of £4197.00. This is match funded by £6888.00 from the University of Nottingham.

Propose that this is not competitively procured on the basis of value, time constraints and that this is a joint proposal encompassing both of Nottingham's universities (who would need to co-operate with any study).

Signature:

Chief Finance Officer



Date:

9th June 2015

Is any of the supporting information classified as non public or confidential information**?	Yes		No	x
If yes, please state under which category number from the guidance**				

DECISION:

To approve a budget of £4,200 for the OPCC contribution to this project and to waiver contract standing orders for this procurement.

OFFICER APPROVAL

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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: 
Chief Executive

Date: 2nd June 2015.

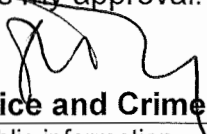
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DECLARATION:

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:

18/6/15

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner

** See guidance on non public information