

**THE OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR DERBYSHIRE
DECISION RECORD**

Request for PCC Decision	Received in OPCC Date: 17/11/2015	OPCC Ref: 21/2016
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Title: AWARD OF GRANT TO UNIVERSITY OF DERBY FOR A RESEARCH PROJECT

Executive Summary:

1. Victim engagement/surveys both nationally and locally express satisfaction/confidence concerns with regards to rates and reasons given for discontinuance of police investigation (and for reporting / non-reporting of further victimisation to the police).
2. Figures for discontinuance are variable between 15% and 20% both nationally and in Derbyshire. A high percentage of cases are discontinued due to victim and witness issues. Even though Derbyshire's figures are similar to national figures there is a need for continued improvement to reduce discontinuance rates and improve service to victims.
3. Desirable outcomes of this continued improvement will include:
 - A high rate of victim satisfaction
 - Improved victim confidence for repeat reporting
 - Cases achieve the appropriate outcome
 - Efficient use of Constabulary resources
4. The proposed research project has been costed at £25,000 and is anticipated to be completed within a nine month period. The project will be led by Dr Dave Walsh, Reader in Criminal Investigation at the International Policing and Justice Institute, Department of Law and Criminology, University of Derby will identify causes of case discontinuance specifically in relation to victim issues in order to make recommendations to the Constabulary to effect better outcomes for justice

Decision

Resolved that a grant of £25,000 be awarded to the Institute of International Policing and Justice at the University of Derby to undertake a nine month research project to understand causes of discontinuance and make recommendations to Derbyshire Constabulary on how to improve performance.

Declaration

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire. Any such interests are recorded below.

None

The above request has my approval.

Signature

Alan Charles

Date 15/03/16

PUBLICATION SCHEME CONSIDERATIONS

Is the related Section B report to be published Yes

If no, please indicate relevant exemption commercial sensitivity

Is the publication of this approval to be deferred No

If Yes, provide reasons below

Date to be deferred to –

NB Statutory Instrument 2011/3050 (as amended by SI 2012/2479) states that: *all decisions made by a PCC are in the types of information that must "be published as soon as practicable after it becomes available to the elected local policing body".*

OFFICER APPROVAL

Chief Executive or Nominee:

I have been consulted about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities 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

Name David Peet

Date 15 March 2016

DECISION REPORT
15TH MARCH 2016
REPORT OF THE TREASURER

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER GRANT: RESEARCH PROJECT GRANT
TO THE UNIVERSITY OF DERBY

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To approve the award of a grant to the University of Derby Institute of International Policing and Justice to undertake a research project into 'Understanding and addressing the barriers to improved performance in victim and witness related issues'.

2. INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS

- 2.1 Victim engagement/surveys both nationally and locally express satisfaction/confidence concerns with regards to rates and reasons given for discontinuance of police investigation (and for reporting / non-reporting of further victimisation to the police).
- 2.2 Figures for discontinuance are variable between 15% and 20% both nationally and in Derbyshire. A high percentage of cases are discontinued due to victim and witness issues. Even though Derbyshire's figures are similar to national figures there is a need for continued improvement to reduce discontinuance rates and improve service to victims.
- 2.3 Desirable outcomes of this continued improvement will include:
- A high rate of victim satisfaction
 - Improved victim confidence for repeat reporting
 - Cases achieve the appropriate outcome
 - Efficient use of Constabulary resources
- 2.4 The proposed research project has been costed at £25,000 and is anticipated to be completed within a nine month period. The project will be led by Dr Dave Walsh, Reader in Criminal Investigation at the International Policing and

Justice Institute, Department of Law and Criminology, University of Derby will identify causes of case discontinuance specifically in relation to victim issues in order to make recommendations to the Constabulary to effect better outcomes for justice

2.5 The funding for this grant has been identified within the Ministry of Justice funding the Commissioner receives. Grant criteria will be set and regular monitoring reporting will be required from the recipients.

2.6 Full details of grants awarded will be made available on the Commissioner's website at <http://www.derbyshire-pcc.gov.uk/>

RECOMMENDATION

- To approve the Commissioner's Grant of £25,000 to the University of Derby for the research project.

IMPLICATIONS

All implications are assessed and scored to the table below.

HIGH – supporting explanation and narrative required and to be contained within the report

MEDIUM – narrative to be contained within the report at the discretion of the author

LOW – no narrative required

	LOW	MEDIUM	HIGH
Crime & Disorder	x		
Environmental	x		
Equality & Diversity	x		
Financial	x		
Health & Safety	x		
Human Rights	x		
Legal	x		
Personnel	x		

Contact details in the event of enquiries	Name: Helen Boffy External telephone number: 0300 122 6005 Email address:helen.boffy.4808@derbyshire.pnn.police.uk
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