

Subject: TOEX Capabilities Environment & TOEX Data Platform

Originator:

D/C/Supt Kathryn Thacker- TOEX Director

DI Patrick Thompson- TOEX Programme DI

Decision no. 17/2025

Reason for submission: For Decision

Submitted to: Police and Crime Commissioner

Summary:

- The TOEX Programme operates two distinct technical workstreams.
- One is referred to as the Capabilities Environment and is concerned with the delivery of applications which can be accessed by police officers and police staff (both within and external to TOEX) to complete specific policing tasks – for example, the automated transcribing of a suspect interview.
- The other is referred to as the Data Platform and is concerned with the storing, modelling, manipulation, visualisation, and holistic use of multiple policing data sets towards TOEX thematic work.
- Both technical workstreams require ongoing technical expertise across architecture, development and testing alongside ongoing service management.
- Whilst the TOEX Programme directly employs technically literate staff, supporting expertise has been provisioned through previous financial years from Simpson Associates who have provided expertise across both TOEX Programme technical workstreams.
- This decision report requests approval to award a compliant G Cloud contract to Simpson's Associates to ensure continued operational and technical support to both platforms outlined above.

Recommendation:

Seeking approval / authorisation for the compliant award via G Cloud 14 of 7F-2024-1303 to Simpsons Associates to maintain and develop ongoing capabilities for the TOEX Capabilities Environment and the TOEX Data Platform, via compliant procurement process.

Outcome/approval by: PCC

The recommendations as outlined above are approved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Saylor", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Signature:

Date: 07/05/2025

Detail of the submission

1. Objective:

- 1.1 Approval for award of compliant G Cloud 14 Contract to Simpsons' Associates.

2. Background:

- 2.1 A high-level overview of the associated work is noted below for each workstream.

Capabilities Environment (CE)

- 2.2 The CE is a TOEX owned Microsoft Azure cloud environment.
- 2.3 This cloud environment sits outside of established Constabulary infrastructure – accordingly, it is not aligned to a @[constabulary].police.uk domain.
- 2.4 This cloud environment acts as the platform upon which multiple developed applications are hosted.
- 2.5 Each of these applications have a defined policing use case. One of the applications deals with the translation of non-English mobile phone content. Another allows users to search for flight data into and out of UK airports. At the time of writing this submission, the platform hosts five applications with a sixth in active development. Over 1,300 officers and staff across 10 Constabularies have registered to use the applications and, to date, the applications have delivered a saving of over £11 million to UK policing.
- 2.6 As the CE is provisioned outside of existing policing ICT structures, and is expressly designed to process policing workloads, it requires a high-level technical governance and a robust architecture and service management wrap-around to ensure that it can stand up the scrutiny of processing policing data up to and including OFF-SEN level marking.
- 2.7 There is currently no functioning central national body which allows for the delivery of such architecture, applications development and ongoing servicing of technical products as described and provided by the TOEX Programme through the CE

- 2.8 Accordingly, to date, TOEX have contracted resources from Simpson Associates to assist in the delivery of the CE. Simpson Associates are a data transformation and data engineering company who are a Microsoft gold partner and experts in Azure delivery.
- 2.9 Simpson Associates have worked with the TOEX Programme for several years and have been instrumental in the realisation of the CE and its smooth roll out to multiple constabularies and ROCU teams.
- 2.10 Resources from Simpson Associates have worked "hand in glove" with both the TOEX Programme technical resources and with TDCOM to provision the architecture and Azure structures which make up the operational structures of the CE. They have also provisioned the full-time service desk and ongoing security monitoring and reporting structures which surround the CE and its hosted applications.
- 2.11 Simpson Associates have been a crucial part of ensuring the legitimacy of the CE in ensuring that it remains objectively secure and updated to receive the latest Microsoft updates and thus, when taken together with the assurance work completed by TDCOM, can be accepted as a suitable environment to handling policing workloads.
- 2.12 To date, the skills which Simpson Associates have brought to the TOEX Programme has enabled the Programme to deliver the first independently cloud hosted environment that offers secure access to operational applications which have, to date, saved UK policing over £11 million and deliver improved investigative and intelligence outcomes.

Data Platform

- 2.13 The TOEX data platform resides within the wider Azure tenancy associated to Norfolk & Suffolk Constabularies.
- 2.14 Whilst the overarching delivery of Azure services to Norfolk and Suffolk remains the responsibility of Norfolk & Suffolk ICT, the bespoke data platform delivered by the TOEX Programme has benefitted greatly from the data engineering and Azure architecture specialists from Simpson Associates.
- 2.15 Staff from Simpson Associates have been appropriately vetted and have been given relevant administrator permissions to work and deliver support to the TOEX Programme's data aspirations within the Norfolk and Suffolk Azure environment.

- 2.16 To date, the combined work of Simpson Associates resources alongside Programme technical staff has provisioned a UK first platform whereby multiple previously siloed data sets have been brought together, modelled, and the outputs shared in real time with nine Constabularies to provide strategic insight into VAWG and missing persons thematic threat in addition to providing bespoke operational outcomes across county lines and CSAE risk areas.
- 2.17 TOEXinnovate regularly within the data platform, including experimenting with novel data science techniques and processes. Simpson Associates engagement makes these work products successful due to their knowledge of contemporary architecture and ability to assist in experimentation in new techniques – many of which would not have been possible had the Programme had to rely solely on Norfolk & Suffolk ICT staff.

3. Areas for consideration:

- 3.1 It is relevant to note that the entirety of the TOEX budget is grant funded centrally by the Home Office's Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Team.
- 3.2 Norfolk Constabulary's association to the TOEX Programme is one of hosting for functions such as payroll, HR, systems access, and office space provision.
- 3.3 Notably, Norfolk Constabulary acts as the conduit to hold the Home Office grant to then enable spending towards TOEX Programme costs.
- 3.4 The work noted above is entirely funded from the TOEX grant and is not a draw on Constabulary funds.

4. Other options considered:

- 4.1 The technical work of the TOEX Programme has delivered over £11 million in savings to operational policing over the last 14 months with multiple operational workstreams "in train". This delivery, as noted above, is intrinsically linked to established relationships to both Simpson Associates and TDCom.
- 4.2 As this funding settlement period covers a one-year period only, it is accepted that the ongoing delivery plan would be adversely affected in efforts to identify alternative delivery partners.
- 4.3 It is also relevant that the TOEX Programme will spend much of FY '25 – '26 planning for its transition from Norfolk Constabulary hosting to hosting within the NPCC. This follows a path previously taken by our sister Programme, Hydrant.
- 4.4 Within this extra context of change planned for the forthcoming year, there is no appetite for, or rationale to introduce more flux on an already established technical

workstream which is successfully delivering operational and cost savings to multiple police forces nationally.

5. Strategic aims/objective supported:

5.1 Having noted that the TOEX Programme is a national policing provision, kindly hosted by Norfolk Constabulary, it is also noted that the operational and technical workstreams of the TOEX Programme align to Norfolk's 2025-2029 Police and Crime Plan.

5.2 Priorities including,

- Reducing serious violence (especially in the VAWG space)
- Bringing offenders to justice
- Enhancing policing through technology
- Improving conviction rates

...are all positively impacted by Programme delivery.

5.3 At a national level, the Programme is part of the government's child sexual exploitation taskforce, it operates a cross border / cross region response to organised exploitation thematic investigations and provides the first (and only) cloud platform hosting applications to multiple police forces.

6. Financial and other resource implications:

6.1 Cost of new contract

Year 1 01/04/2025-31/03/2026 £1,710,600

Year 2 (Optional Extension) 01/04/2026-31/03/2027 £3,421,200

7. Carbon Emissions and Other Environmental Implications:

Carbon Emissions

7.1 The estimated impact on our carbon emissions that must be reported under current statute from this proposal is:

Emission Categories:	Increase in tCO ₂	Saving in tCO ₂
Scope 1 – Fuel – Building Heating	0	0
Scope 1 – Fuel – Transport	0	0
Scope 2 – Electricity	0	0

Environmental Implications

7.2 No material implications

8. Other implications and risks:

- 8.1 All financial risks for Programme spending are held by the Home Office CSE team, to whom the TOEX Programme are accountable.
- 8.2 CC Paul Sanford remains the TOEX Data Controller however this position is considered to be finite and will cease when the Programme leaves Norfolk Constabulary hosting to NPCC hosting.

Originator checklist (must be completed)	Please state 'yes' or 'no'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	No
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	Yes
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	N/A
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	Yes
Have sustainability and environmental factors been considered? (e.g. biodiversity, employee commuting, business travel, waste and recycling, water, air quality, food and catering and estates construction)	N/A
In relation to the above, have all relevant issues been highlighted in the 'other implications and risks' section of the submission?	Yes

Is this report a Confidential Decision?

No

If Yes, please state reasons below having referred to the [PCC Decision Making Policy](#)

Approval to submit to the decision-maker (this approval is required only for submissions to the PCC).

Chief Executive

I am satisfied that relevant advice has been taken into account in the preparation of the report, that the recommendations have been reviewed and that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the PCC.

Signature:



Date: 07/05/2025

Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

I certify that:

- a) there are no financial consequences as a result of this decision,
Or
- b) the costs identified in this report can be met from existing revenue or capital budgets,
Or
- c) the costs identified in this report can be financed from reserves
And
- d) the decision can be taken on the basis of my assurance that Financial Regulations have been complied with.

Signature:



Date: 08/05/2025

Public access to information: *Information contained within this submission is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and wherever possible will be made available on the OPCC website. Submissions should be labelled as 'Not Protectively Marked' unless any of the material is 'restricted' or 'confidential'. Where information contained within the submission is 'restricted' or 'confidential' it should be highlighted, along with the reason why.*