



# THE BULLETIN

NABIS NEWSLETTER FOR STAKEHOLDERS  
AND PARTNERS | DECEMBER 2012

**WELCOME** TO BULLETIN,  
THE STAKEHOLDER  
NEWSLETTER

This issue includes:

- **Introduction from Head of NABIS**
- **Detective Chief Superintendent Iain O'Brien is the new Head of NABIS**
- **Head of Knowledge and Communications Clive Robinson**
- **Introduction from the NABIS Senior Responsible Officer: Commander Steve Rodhouse**
- **United Nations Small Arms Reduction Program visits NABIS in the West Midlands**
- **NABIS in the News**
- **Meet the Team**

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## Introduction from Head of NABIS

Welcome to the December edition of The Bulletin and my first as the new Head of NABIS. I am very pleased to have taken over such an established and well-respected service and I look forward to meeting our stakeholders and partners in the forthcoming months.

I would also like to welcome and introduce Clive Robinson, who is the new Head of Knowledge and Communications. Clive brings with him a wealth of experience, which I am sure will be of benefit to the service.

NABIS has achieved so much since its inception, not least that our forensic capability is a driver for gun crime intelligence being produced for police forces. There is still much that can be done however. One of my main aims is to ensure that all police forces are using NABIS to its full capacity and with the help of the new Senior Responsible Officer for NABIS, Commander Steve Rodhouse, this will be one of the priorities that we will drive forward in 2013. NABIS is also respected on an international level. We recently hosted a visit from a delegation from Kosovo who wanted to see an example of good practice in tackling the criminal use of firearms, specifically the work being done on the supply of illegal weapons trafficking into the United Kingdom. The visit was part of an ongoing United Nations project and is one of a number of international delegations that NABIS has hosted.

This is an exciting time for Clive and I, and I am very keen to continue to grow the profile that NABIS is recognised for both nationally and internationally.

**Det. Chief Supt. Iain O'Brien**  
Head of NABIS



## Detective Chief Superintendent Iain O'Brien is the new Head of NABIS

Iain joins the National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) from West Midlands Police where he has worked for six years as a Detective Superintendent. Iain has been responsible for all covert policing tactics, authorities and inspections. In addition to this demanding role in the second largest force in the country Iain combined that role for 2 of his 6 years as Director of Intelligence. Prior to that role Iain worked as a Detective Chief Inspector, also in force intelligence. He has worked on many national groups. Tackling serious organised crime and dismantling organised crime groups have been his key focus during his time in intelligence.

He recently led the covert world through the priority based budget process (zero based budgeting). Aiming to ensure that West Midlands Police remained driven by intelligence, but in the most efficient and effective way possible.

Iain is force lead for the hostage and crisis negotiation team and he has been a negotiator for 10 years, a role he particularly values because it enables him to see how the force operates and see the commitment of police officers and police staff.

Iain began his policing career in the Metropolitan Police Service in 1984 and transferred to West Midlands Police in 1991. He has worked across the West Midlands in Birmingham, Wolverhampton and in Walsall. Iain has also worked on business change programmes including a regional policing review and the regional force merger project. Iain has been a Senior Investigating Officer for murder, serious organised crime and kidnap.

Iain is pleased to be joining NABIS, he said:

"I had a great job and I made a very conscious decision to apply for NABIS. I now have a fantastic job leading a highly respected team which provides such pivotal information to Senior Investigating Officers and other agencies. I believe that NABIS is at the forefront of our understanding of the criminal use of firearms and supply."

"I will be seeking to ensure that NABIS continues to deliver the service required by our stakeholders, and that we seize opportunities to enhance an understanding of the problem in support of Senior Investigating Officers and drive to make timely interventions."

"I recognise, for the NABIS team, that any period of change is unsettling. Given the lack of clarity at this time about the future, it is my intention is to work closely with our stakeholders and the NCA implementation team to identify as quickly as possible how and where the future of NABIS lies and how funding for NABIS will be delivered. If you are not sure about something or just curious, please ask me when you see me, or pick the phone up to do so."

Iain is married with two teenage sons. In any spare time he gets he enjoys football and has for the past five years coached a junior team in his local league. Iain also enjoys getting out on the hills or into the gym.

## Head of Knowledge and Communications Clive Robinson

Clive Robinson joins NABIS as the Head of Knowledge and Communications, having recently returned from a five year policing project for the Government of Trinidad and Tobago, where he was managing a local law enforcement team tackling gun and gang crime.

Clive began his policing career in the Metropolitan Police Service in 1981 where he worked as a detective for various departments including drugs, homicide, serious crime and counter terrorism. He also worked as a Major Investigations Manager (HOLMES). Clive was the Principal Forensic Coordinator for the London Docklands bombing in 1996, which at the time, was the largest counter terrorism investigation undertaken in the UK. In 1997 he moved to Northumbria Police where he continued to work in drugs and serious crime.

Clive joined the National Criminal Intelligence Service (NCIS) in October 2001 where he became the Head of the UK Firearms Intelligence Unit, as well as acting as an Integrated Ballistics Intelligence Systems (IBIS) Advisor, National Firearms Forensic Intelligence Database Advisor and Project Manager for three Home Office funded national firearms projects. Clive transferred across to The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in 2006 where he was seconded to Trinidad and Tobago as an Intelligence Manager.

Clive's work with the Government of Trinidad and Tobago began in 2008 as Senior Manager to the Specialist Anti-Crime Unit of Trinidad and Tobago (SAUTT). It involved working in a country which suffered from 600 gang related murders a year, with an average of 12 murders a week. Guns were the commodity that enabled every aspect of crime.

Clive said:

"I look forward to joining NABIS at an exciting and interesting time, set against the backdrop of the development of the National Crime Agency. Having been through similar change in other organisations, specifically when NCIS became part of SOCA, I know the prospect of change can be a challenging and worrying time for staff members. However I am confident that the future for NABIS will present a number of opportunities and I hope to be able to use my experience to take these forward for the unit.

"As someone involved in tackling gun crime and terrorism in the UK over the last twenty years, I feel I have a personal stake in the work of the National Ballistics Intelligence Service. As a former member of a UK National Firearms Intelligence Unit, I know how important tackling gun and gang crime is to the UK, a position reinforced by recent experience tackling gun and gang crime abroad in the Caribbean. I look forward to the challenges of my new role as Head of Knowledge and Communication at NABIS and to working with the NABIS team."



## Introduction from the NABIS Senior Responsible Officer: Commander Steve Rodhouse

I am really pleased to take up the role of Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) for NABIS. I am looking forward to building on the good work of my predecessor Assistant Chief Constable Gary Cann.

The excellent work being carried out by NABIS contributes to detecting the criminals that use firearms and keeping communities safe. This role will compliment my current position in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). As a Commander working in Specialist Crime and Operations I have specific responsibility for gangs and organised crime and I also have the MPS ACPO lead for gun crime. Part of my work involves managing the Trident Gang Crime Command which investigates all shootings in London. My team and I know only too well how important forensic analysis and intelligence are around the illegal use and supply of firearms.

Over the coming weeks and months I want to work with NABIS to understand what is being done and how the business operates. One particular priority is to make sure that all police forces are making the best use of NABIS facilities. Not only is this important for value for money, but it is also critical for investigations.

I look forward to meeting the NABIS team in the near future and its partners and stakeholders to help drive NABIS forward.

### Commander Steve Rodhouse

Senior Responsible Officer; National Ballistics Intelligence Service



## United Nations Small Arms Reduction Program visits NABIS

NABIS was visited by United Nations representatives and Kosovan police earlier this month. A delegation of five Kosovan police officers, a ballistic scientist and the Kosovan Police Director of Intelligence Colonel Fehmi Hoti, together with the UNDP Project Manager Alain Lapon, made the visit as part of the UNDP Small Arms Reduction Program. The program is a key strand of NABIS's work to help target international arms trafficking routes.



Lead Scientist Martin Parker, UNDP Project Coordinator Alain Lapon (2nd from Left) and Kosovan Police Director of Intelligence Colonel Fehmi Hoti (5th from left (centre)) at the Birmingham NABIS Facility.

The visit was organised at the request of the UN to help develop 'best practice' worldwide by bringing international law enforcement partners together, to help stem the flow of weapons from former areas of conflict to the UK and the rest of Europe.

Detective Chief Superintendent Iain O'Brien, Head of NABIS, welcomed the KOSSAC (Kosovo Small Arms Control) delegation he said: "This has been a great opportunity to welcome international colleagues to NABIS. We anticipate being able to have productive communication in the future"

The delegation's visit involved meeting the NABIS intelligence team, led by head of Intelligence Ian Head, along with a trip to the forensics facility managed by lead scientist Martin Parker

The visit is one of a series of meetings with international partners and follows NABIS's successful international intelligence sharing conference in Birmingham in 2011.

The visit has helped to strengthen the UK's ties with former conflict nations and supports the UNDP and key elements of Kosovo's 'Small Arms and Light Weapons Control' action plan by supplying intelligence and forensics training to its law enforcement staff.

## NABIS in the News

The National Ballistics Intelligence Service featured prominently in the ITV1 programme 'Britain's Deadly Gun Trade' on Thursday 29 November.

The 'Tonight' programme looked at how guns are finding their way into the hands of criminals. NABIS Lead Scientist, Martin Parker was interviewed about the role NABIS has in recovering illegal weapons and tackling the criminal use of firearms. He showed the presenter the types of weapons that have been recovered and sent to NABIS for examination, including Glock handguns and sawn-off shotguns.

The programme also interviewed the family of 16-year old Agnes Sina-Inakoju, who was an innocent victim of gun crime when she was caught in the cross-fire between gang members and shot dead in a takeaway in east London.

Head of NABIS, Detective Chief Superintendent Iain O'Brien said:

"This programme tackled the very serious issue of the supply of illegal weapons coming into the UK. NABIS works with police forces throughout the country and law enforcement agencies internationally to help tackle the supply of weapons, and the Tonight programme highlighted how the use of forensic technology plays an important role in this."

# Meet The Team

## Greg Barber Service Delivery Coordinator

Greg works as NABIS Service Delivery Coordinator for the Northern Hub. This involves organising the collections from 13 force collection points in the North of England, and booking in and out the submissions to NABIS. Greg liaises on a regular basis with officers to ensure that exhibits are submitted correctly and that the entries on the NABIS Database are created properly. In addition he also monitors submission statistics and makes sure the exhibit stores are kept in a tidy and manageable condition.

A typical day for Greg involves giving the NABIS drivers the crates for return to a force clearing house and inform them about any collections being made that day. Greg may then carry out some IBIS loading of items for the ballistic technicians or experts. When the drivers return with the new submissions Greg checks each submission is correct before booking it in and creating a case file.

Greg collates all the exhibits that need to be returned to forces the next day and packages them as required. Throughout the day Greg will also assist officers and clearing house staff with enquiries about the NABIS Database or the submission of items.

Greg's role means he is the first point of contact for forces wanting to use NABIS, and he is responsible for informing them how to correctly follow submission procedures. Once a case is booked in, it is passed on to an expert/technician who examines and reports on it. If the items are then to be returned to a force or forwarded for forensic examination, Greg makes the necessary arrangements.

When Greg does have any spare time, he is an avid sports watcher and a keen runner, running to and from work four days a week. He also competes in a 5 kilometre park run every Saturday morning.

If Greg wasn't working for NABIS he has often speculated that he would like to be the man behind the Prime Minister, having the good ideas, but keeping out of the limelight. In his own words, "I am sure I could do better than most of the current political establishment."

This is your space to fill.

If you have something you would like to feature in the next edition of The Bulletin then please get in touch.

Email Louise Hewitt on:

[nabis.support@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nabis.support@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)

Got something to say about NABIS?

We want to hear from you about the service provided by NABIS.

If you have feedback on any aspect of NABIS work please send your comments to:

[nabis.support@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk](mailto:nabis.support@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk)