



THE BULLETIN

NABIS NEWSLETTER FOR STAKEHOLDERS
AND PARTNERS | MAY 2012

WELCOME TO BULLETIN, THE STAKEHOLDER NEWSLETTER

This issue includes:

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225 Years in prison

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Introduction from Head of NABIS

One of the key elements of the service that NABIS provides is the principle that all the work that we do is **free at the point of delivery**.

From the outset of NABIS we were determined that the decision of whether to enable ballistic material recovered from crime scenes to be sent to a Forensic Hub should not be based on finances, but on the basis that the more items that are submitted for analysis, the more complete the intelligence picture will be. This in turn allows for more accurate targeting of people involved in the supply and use of firearms.

In the current challenging financial climate there really is no excuse not to take advantage of the whole range of services that NABIS provide; after all your force has already paid for it by means of your advance subscription so there is no further expense.

I am pleased to report that since the introduction of NABIS the number of items being submitted for forensic examination has increased considerably.

Det. Chief Supt. Paul James
Head of NABIS



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ACPO Criminal Use of Firearms Lead Steps Down

Assistant Chief Constable, Susannah Fish OBE has stepped down as the lead for ACPO CUF after four and a half years.

Since ACC Fish took up the post, there has been a marked change in gun crime. In 2011 there was a 13 per cent decrease in gun crime compared to the previous year. In addition there was an 18 per cent decrease in robberies involving a firearm, and handgun offences decreased by 17 per cent. In addition the intelligence and data collection provided by NABIS has helped provide reassurance that a real difference has been made in combating firearms crime.

ACC Fish has also been the lead for the Firearms Threat Reduction Board (TRB) (previously Programme 5). By holding the lead for both ACPO CUF and the Firearms TRB, ACC Fish has been able to provide a 'joined up' approach to gun crime policing.

ACC Fish said:

"Sadly it is with regret that I feel I am no longer able to continue to fulfil these roles due to my future commitments and postings within the police service. The last four and a half years have been challenging, enjoyable and productive, however it seems right and appropriate that I now hand over the running of ACPO CUF, and the TRB, to someone who can dedicate the time and leadership to this work."

ACC Fish will chair the next ACPO CUF/TRB meeting but anticipates having handed over to her successor by September.

ACC Fish continued:

"Be it the development of NABIS or operations such as the tackling of the Olympic .380 BBM Blank Firing Revolver, I am proud to have led a team that works extremely hard to ensure we do everything possible to protect the public from harm, and take illegal firearms off the streets of the UK."



**ASSOCIATION OF
CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS**

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European Firearms Experts

NABIS is one of the UK representatives that form part of the European Firearms Experts (EFE), along with Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). For crimes involving firearms, the EFE, as part of the European Police Chiefs Task Force, are the expert body that discusses developments in this area at a European level and takes joint measures to help prevent illegal activities. The EFE contains representatives from 27 countries including the UK. The Chair of the EFE is dependent on the country that holds the European Commission, which is currently Denmark.

The EFE exchange good practice, coordinate the implementation of police operations on a multi lateral stage; develop research and analysis and enable non-formal enquiries to be conducted between its members. The latter ensures that any common ground for a potential investigation is identified quickly before it is escalated through the formal channels.

The EFE has produced a number of working groups, which meet throughout the year and present their work at the annual EFE meeting. The current working group activity includes compiling a standard glossary of terms which can be used throughout Europe for which the UK is the lead; the use of the internet for purchasing and trafficking firearms and engaging with South Eastern Europe and the Balkan States on the issue of trafficking firearms into Western Europe and again the UK has a key role in this activity.

The NABIS representative has presented to the EFE a number of times about NABIS and the service it provides the UK.

NABIS was asked to produce the European Firearms Threat Assessment, which was ratified at a meeting in Brussels in December 2011. He said:

“The EFE believes that NABIS is the future in tackling the criminal use of firearms. They see NABIS as good practice and are keen to use examples of our work to develop the policing approach to gun crime in Europe.”

As part of the UK's lead for engaging with South Eastern Europe, the representative presented “How the UK Solves Cross Border Gun Crime” to the 3rd South Eastern Europe Ballistics Identification Collaboration Seminar, which was held in Zagreb, Croatia in early May. This seminar and the presentation will lay the foundations between continued engagement between Western and Eastern Europe.

Detective Chief Superintendent Paul James, Head of NABIS said:

“The EFE recognise that the holistic approach that NABIS takes has a proven track record, which is evidenced in case studies such as Operation Newhaven, Operation Smolen and Operation Bezant.

“By playing a key role in the EFE, NABIS is helping to shape engagement between police on an international level. In addition we are helping to shape how Europe tackles gun crime, which will have an impact on cross border gun crime.”

Professional Development Committee

The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) Homicide Working Group (HWG) is chaired by Chief Constable Jon Stoddart from Durham Constabulary. The group is responsible for overseeing the development of good practice in relation to homicide investigation and prevention nationally.

During the past ten years the HWG has gained a world wide reputation for the quality of the work delivered in tackling homicide. A sub-group of the HWG is the Professional Development Committee (PDC).

The PDC is responsible for overseeing the accreditation of all Senior Investigating Officers (SIO's), to ensure that people tasked with investigating serious crimes such as murder are suitably trained, skilled and experienced.

Accreditation for SIO's is achieved through reaching level 3 and 4 of the Professionalising Investigations Programme (PIP) and maintaining their expertise through continued professional development.

Head of NABIS, Detective Chief Superintendent Paul James has been a member of the HWG representing NABIS for five years. Paul is the current chair of the PDC and has recently been overseeing a piece of work to ensure that good practice and learning from detected serious crimes, such as the shooting incidents that NABIS is primarily concerned with, is shared amongst SIOs. This will be achieved by establishing a national debriefing model.

A system has been developed whereby senior detective's who sit as regional representatives on the HWG, will capture learning from solved serious crimes in their area on a quarterly basis. This information will be fed into the PDC.

PDC members will then ensure that this learning is incorporated into SIO training. In addition that this information forms part of the ongoing delivery of continued professional development and is disseminated via the Police Online Knowledge Area (POLKA) and the Journal of Homicide Investigation to SIOs.

Det. Ch. Supt Paul James said:

"The real difference between what we are trying to achieve, and the existing structure for carrying out live time reviews of major investigations, is that our focus is on crimes that have been solved rather than those remain undetected.

"At the moment there is a real knowledge gap that can be filled by developing this national debrief model. There is a huge amount to be learnt that remains untapped at present, both positive and otherwise, from successful investigations.

"This work will be particularly useful from a NABIS perspective as the majority of shooting incidents that we deal with are solved fairly quickly and therefore have probably not been the subject of any formal review. By properly debriefing these investigations we can learn about the individuals involved in this criminality and the way in which they are committing crime. We can then use this information to help develop the NABIS intelligence picture and focus on the priority areas for targeting enforcement activity."

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Investigating Gun Crime The NABIS Seminar

The National Ballistics Intelligence Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers Criminal Use of Firearms (ACPO CUF) portfolio brought together over 200 stakeholders from police forces and agencies in the UK, Europe and the United States for a seminar dedicated to investigating gun crime. The event, held at the National Police Improvement Agency in Warwickshire, demonstrated how the NABIS service provides a centre of excellence in relation to investigating gun crime for UK policing. The audience were taken through a number of gun crime operations that helped demonstrate how NABIS can support and further investigations through its use of forensic science, intelligence and knowledge around the use, supply and manufacture of illegal firearms.

The one day seminar included inputs from members of the NABIS team who highlighted the importance of placing accurate data on the NABIS Database, submitting ballistic material for analysis, and submitting firearms tracing requests to NABIS. These elements combined can prove critical to the way NABIS is able to support forces and agencies in understanding the movement of firearms and assist in bringing offenders to justice.

A number of operations that had been concluded in the courts were used as case studies with the Senior Investigating Officers (SOIs) from each investigation detailing key learning points:

Operation Smolen was co-ordinated by the North West Regional Organised Crime team and the American authorities. Its aim was to investigate the smuggling of guns into the UK on commercial flights from the United States. These weapons were

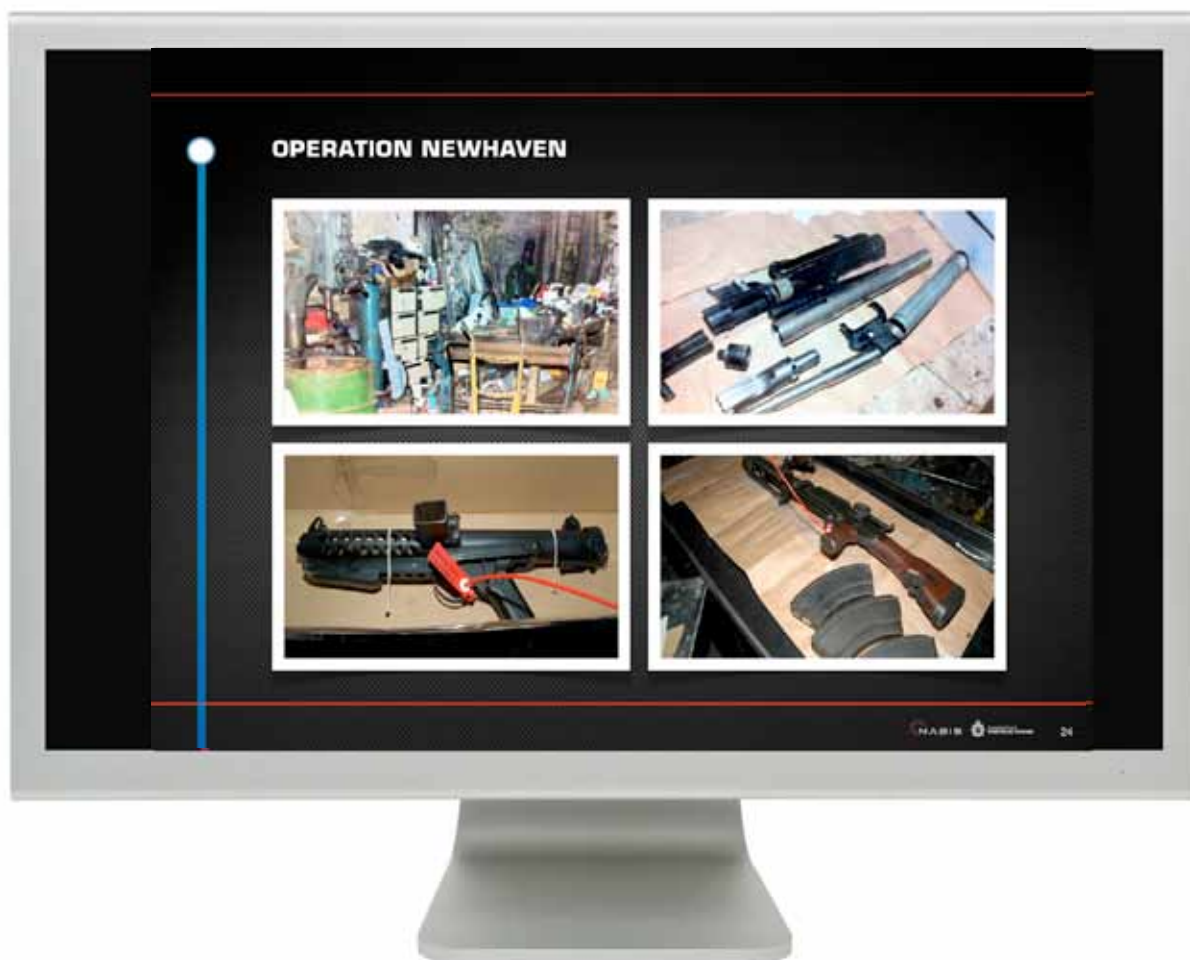
subsequently distributed by criminal networks and used in serious crime.

NABIS provided crucial evidence and intelligence to show that a number of Glock handguns were part of the cache of firearms brought into the country by the convicted offender, Stephen Greenoe, over a six month period. A United States Federal Court in North Carolina found Greenoe, aged 37 years old, guilty in January this year and sentenced him to 10 years imprisonment, followed by a three year supervision order upon his release.

Operation Lapworth was an investigation led by West Yorkshire Police supported by NABIS and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA). It began in July 2010 when two parcels, destined for two addresses in Bradford and Fagley, were intercepted by the UK Border Agency at East Midlands Airport. West Yorkshire Police's Organised Crime group were alerted to the packages and subsequent enquiries led to the arrests of nine people. Three further arrests were made several days later at Manchester Airport.



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Two of the arrested men were later found to be the main co-ordinators of the conspiracy. The pair purchased guns from a seller in the USA who would send them to Bradford. Over a 12 month period the individuals were involved in smuggling a number of firearms into the country and concealing them within packages. Officers from NABIS and West Yorkshire Police's Organised Crime Group liaised with the US' Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives

(ATF) who arrested the US seller of firearms along with two women in Texas for their involvement in the illegal supply of firearms to the UK. All three have since been dealt with by the American authorities.

Eight people were convicted at Leeds Crown Court for offences relating to the illegal importation and supply of firearms. The eight received custodial sentences totalling 100 years imprisonment.

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OPERATION NEWHAVEN



NABIS

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Operation Newhaven was used as a fascinating case study involving the manufacture, supply, importation and use of criminally held firearms in the UK. It also provided a way to help explain to the delegates the nature of firearms importation and how this adds a level of complexity to gun crime investigations. This is one element of the work NABIS conducts with law enforcement partners across the world.

Finally **Operation Bezant** concerned the attempted murder of a man in Manchester using a firearm supplied through by Steven Greenoe and his associates. This case study showed how gun crime supply networks overlap because during the investigation an Operation Lapworth firearm was recovered. This enabled the delegates to understand how criminally imported firearms move around the country through criminal supply chains.

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Detective Chief Superintendent Paul James, Head of NABIS said:

“This productive and successful seminar has received some excellent feedback. It is important that our partners in the law enforcement community fully understand what NABIS does for the bigger picture in tackling the criminal use of firearms.

“Every detail is important whether that be from entering ballistics data on to the NABIS Database to the forensic examination of weapons. Any aspect of this picture could help to complete a case.”

Deputy Assistant Commissioner for Crime Operations in the Metropolitan Police Service Martin Hewitt said:

“This seminar was a good example of all the aspects that are involved in running a large gun crime operation. It highlighted just how NABIS can contribute to those aspects and how important they are in providing essential links between gun crime offences committed in different parts of the country.”



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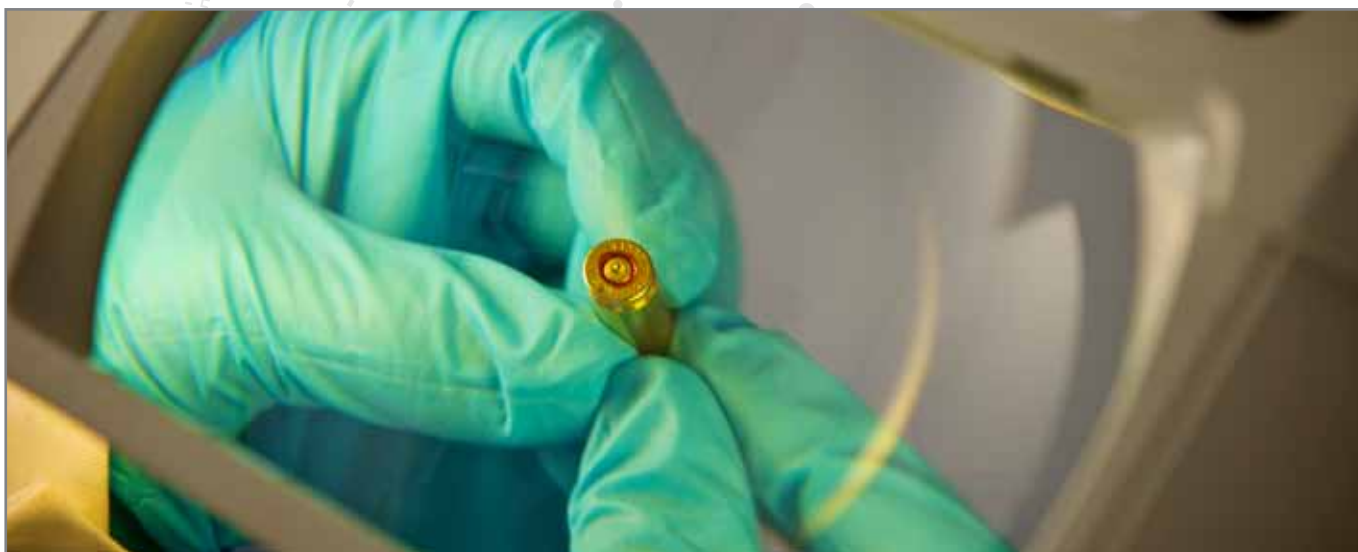
NABIS - free to use at the point of submission

The National Ballistic Intelligence Service (NABIS) is free to use for UK police forces. This means that forces from around the country can submit ballistic material to one of four NABIS Hubs, which are able to trace the movement of submitted ballistic material through the NABIS Database.

Police forces in the UK have signed up to the NABIS Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) which, in addition to providing a clear understanding of the level of service that stakeholders can expect from NABIS, also places an obligation on police forces and law enforcement partners to ensure that all relevant ballistic material is submitted to NABIS Forensic Services as soon as practicable after it has been recovered. This also relates to timely, quality focused, entries on to the NABIS Database for both incident and intelligence data. Police forces must put initial information on the NABIS Database before they submit the ballistic material to a Hub, including the description of the material and how it was recovered.

As part of the service provided by NABIS, all ballistic items that are being sent to one of the NABIS hubs are collected from police forces and partner agencies via a dedicated transportation system. The NABIS transport system operates in a covert manner ensuring maximum security for material.

NABIS operates a number of dedicated vehicles that collect a range of material across the country. This service is essential in ensuring that vital intelligence information submitted to the NABIS Hubs in a timely manner. To ensure that the ballistic material is secure, police forces and agencies complete detailed information in relation to the submissions and these are sealed into numbered boxes. Details of the material and the incident it was recovered from are entered onto the NABIS Database prior to it being sent to the hub. The boxes are then opened at the relevant hub and are checked against the paperwork before being examined. This information is then updated onto the NABIS Database.



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Covert entries can also be placed on the NABIS Database through a specific NABIS covert entries policy. Only the NABIS Senior Management Team will be aware of such requests and they will be able to facilitate passing on the information from the ballistic examination directly to the investigating officer, the NABIS Database will not be updated.

The NABIS Hubs are able to trace the movement of submitted ballistic material through the NABIS Database, in addition to identifying and comparing it. They then record their findings on the Database. The dedicated NABIS Intelligence Cell uses this information to look

at linkages between the weapon and other areas or forces. The NABIS Hubs provide an evidential service for comparison microscopy, which is also free. This means that any investigation where a statement is required to prove that ballistic material is discharged from a weapon can be provided by NABIS. Similarly, where a statement is required detailing connections between ballistic material recovered at different crime scenes, or the identification of a number and type of weapons used in an incident, can also be provided by NABIS.

All other evidential services will continue to be carried out by external forensic providers.



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Meet The Team

Joanne Godley- Business Support Officer NABIS Intelligence Cell

Joanne Godley has been with NABIS for close to two and a half years. She is a Business Support Officer within the NABIS Intelligence Cell and a typical day can involve carrying out firearms traces including those involving overseas agencies; intelligence gathering, requesting intelligence from forces and ensuring that the intelligence spreadsheet is regularly updated with information from the NABIS Hub reports.

Jo says:

“It is essential that the intelligence spreadsheet is kept up to date as it feeds into our NIC quarterly and regional bulletins. I am responsible for producing a regional paper using this information. I am currently in the process of completing a regional review paper for the past year.”

Jo’s role is an essential part of the service NABIS provides because the NIC connects and builds upon NABIS intelligence, which helps drives forward the work of NABIS.

If Jo wasn’t with NABIS she would be an Intelligence Officer for the Australian Secret Intelligence Service. In her spare time she enjoys walking her dog, eating out and travelling.

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:

nb_snapshot@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:

nb_snapshot@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk