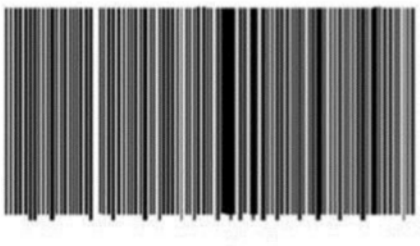
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OP NORTHMOOR – URGENT RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Reference:

A. Op NORTHMOOR GOLD RoD dated 7 Nov 14.

Issue

1. Request for funding to support Project MARI; an Urgent Estate Requirement (UER) and associated specialist data mining equipment requirement to enable Op NORTHMOOR to deliver a prompt and effective investigation.

Recommendation

2. DRes is requested to note:

a. The allegations under investigation by the RMP within Op NORTHMOOR engage the UK's legal obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998 to hold a prompt, effective and independent investigation; and that

b. without timely further investment in infrastructure the investigation will be neither effective nor prompt;

and agree:

a. to fund Project MARI as a UER with the preferred location as Southwick Park (£6m) and fund the associated specialist data mining equipment (£2.5m).

Timing

3. **Urgent**. The Department, and separately PM(A), are required to account for any unnecessary delay in the investigation of the allegations and the ongoing related civil litigation.

Background

4. Op NORTHMOOR is a highly complex criminal investigation presently involving complaints by 140+[1] foreign nationals of ill-treatment during detention in Afghanistan. Over half the complainants have lodged claims against the Department in the UK Civil Courts, and RMP are currently investigating these (and other related) allegations. Op NORTHMOOR is a non-

[1] These numbers are likely to increase.

discretionary task. The UK Government has a legal obligation under the Human Rights Act 1998 (incorporating Articles 2 (the right to life) and 3 (the prohibition of torture) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR) into UK law) to investigate such allegations. To satisfy legal obligations any investigation must be prompt, effective and independent. Further legal obligations to investigate the allegations arise from the Geneva Conventions Act 1957 and the International Criminal Court Act 2001. If not undertaken by RMP, any alternate solution proposed by the Department would still require the same technical support but with added costs associated with manpower.

5. **Resourcing**. PM(A) provided the initial investigative structure for Op NORTHMOOR within existing resources. As the investigation has progressed it is clear that an increase in manpower, infrastructure and technical equipment will be required in order to meet legal obligations. This was defined at the Gold Command meeting[2] at Reference A.

a. **Manpower**. 62 personnel from across 1 MP Bde are currently being employed on Op NORTHMOOR. A key outcome of Reference A was that manpower needed to be uplifted to 143 in order to actively manage the increasing number of accusations and influx of evidential material.

b. **Infrastructure**. The Operation is currently working from temporary facilities within the SIB Regt in Campion Lines, Bulford. The building is currently at 120% capacity and is therefore unsuitable for the increased requirement. In addition Campion Lines is unsuited to dealing with the evidence recovered from the investigation; in that it can not be used for the storage of [a specific classification of material] nor is the current infrastructure capable of being adapted to meet security requirements.

6. **Project MARI/Equipment Requirements**. DInfra provided support through DIO to assess the requirement and provide costs/options for delivery. This has provided two options; an adjustment to existing infrastructure at Southwick Park, Hants at an estimated cost of circa £6m or a 'new build' at an as yet unspecified location of circa £7-11m. Either option will take time to deliver. There is no funding allocated for this project. In order to be effective there is a requirement for specialist IT to support data mining and analysis. RMP do not currently hold control such equipment as it was subsumed into the Iraq Historic Allegations Team (IHAT) at their inception. Without this equipment the significant amount of electronic data can not be interrogated and the investigation may be deemed ineffective. Costs are estimated at circa £2.5m for the data processing equipment and can be procured from existing MOD suppliers. Failure to procure this will adversely impact on the promptness and effectiveness of the investigation.

Presentational

7. There has been no media interest in the civil claims to-date. However, there has been media interest nationally and internationally with regards to operational detention in Afghanistan and significant recent interest in the treatment of detainees by coalition partners. Defensive lines and a handling strategy will be produced in consultation with DMC, PJHQ and DJEP.

PM(A)

[2] Strategy meeting directing resource requirements; informed by the views of the investigation mentor from National Crime Agency and the Major Enquiry review team from Greater Manchester Police.