

# TAYSIDE JOINT POLICE BOARD

12 November 2001

Report by the Chief Constable No. PB 48/2001

**SUBJECT: AUTOMATIC NUMBER PLATE RECOGNITION TECHNOLOGY**

**Abstract:** This report advises members of the Board of the acquisition of automatic number plate recognition technology and confirms that the Scottish Executive has agreed to fund the purchase of this equipment in this financial year.

## 1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Board note the terms of the report.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) is a mobile technology system which can check the number plates of moving vehicles against information held on a database. Stolen and other vehicles which are on the "interest" database, can be identified whilst on the road. It can also capture vehicle numbers which may subsequently be researched. The equipment is generally fitted within police vehicles with a "back office" database management facility located in a suitable police office.
- 2.2 ANPR offers a highly effective technical means of enhancing the capability to detect and gather intelligence on a wide range of criminal activity which involves the use of vehicles. It is particularly useful in the areas of Drug Trafficking, travelling career criminals and Autocrime.

## 3. CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Earlier this year the Scottish Executive intimated that it wished to make funding available to equip Police Forces in Scotland with an ANPR capability. It invited ACPOS to consider how this might most effectively be delivered. ACPOS submitted a proposal to equip each of the 8 Scottish Forces with a range of equipment which would be sourced through an existing procurement arrangement negotiated by the Home Office in England and Wales.
- 3.2 The approach taken by ACPOS will ensure wide ANPR capability across Scotland. The systems to be acquired have been specifically chosen to facilitate their operation in a "stand alone" manner on a routine basis whilst incorporating the capacity to be linked to each other and across forces when appropriate to provide national targeting of "professional criminals".

3.3 Correspondence has been received from the Scottish Executive Justice Department advising that Ministers have agreed to fund the ACPOS proposal in full by way of a 100% grant in this financial year for the procurement of mobile automatic number plate recognition technology. The Force is now working with ACPOS to progress procurement.

#### **4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The cost of the ANPR equipment to be purchased by Tayside Police is estimated to be in the region of £100,000 including "back office" costs. These costs will be met by way of 100% specific funding for ANPR from the Scottish Executive. There will be ongoing maintenance costs from 2002/2003 onwards in relation to this project, however these will not be significant and will be contained within future years' revenue budgets. There are no staff implications arising from this project.

4.2 Within two months of the end of the financial year, a statement certified by the Board Treasurer, must be sent to the Scottish Executive confirming that the grant has been spent in full on the ANPR system. The grant will be paid in a lump sum in March 2002.

#### **5. CONSULTATION**

5.1 The Clerk and the Treasurer have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

#### **6. CONCLUSION**

6.1 The Force welcomes the Scottish Executive initiative with regard to automatic number plate recognition and the Board is requested to note the position.

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NOTE: No background papers, as defined by Section 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 (other than any containing confidential or exempt information) were relied on to any material extent in preparing the above Report.