



Transformational Government

Enabled by technology

Criminal Justice

Delivery experts working on Criminal Justice have worked up, in their own words, some hypothetical examples that give a glimpse of what may be possible in the future. These scenarios are not policy statements of what will happen: they are illustrations of what might be possible in a simple pragmatic way when the principles of the strategy are delivered. These illustrations simply apply existing technologies to public sector delivery models, rather than trying to stretch the technology too far.

Front-Line Police Officer Day in Life – 2015

From the perspective of Kevin, a Police Constable with three years experience.

“I could never understand why the technology we used was so out of date all the time. We nearly always had to bring a suspect into the police station to check their identity and status when the information we needed in the field was already held somewhere on a Government system. This was inefficient way of doing things that lost time for doing our jobs - to help create safe communities by reducing crime, anti-social behaviour and disorder.

“I am delighted that we now get support when and where we need it, whether in the office, in the car or on foot. Most importantly for me, I can now identify and check the status of persons and vehicles in on the spot, in real-time, drawing on information from a wide range of data sources across government. This increases my chances of making the right decisions right there, on the streets. An example of this is a recent incident that I attended in the town centre.

“Whilst on patrol, I was dispatched to attend an incident in a high street store where a woman was challenged for using a suspected stolen credit card. The woman had fled the store before security could apprehend her. I attended the store and took witness statements from key staff using the voice recorder on my police radio. I then entered key criteria from the suspect descriptions the witnesses had given me on the screen of my radio and undertook a search across police systems and local authority CCTV for any matches. There were no matches on Police systems, but the CCTV system had picked up a good quality image of a female leaving the store that matched the description I had been given.

“I completed the incident report, attached the witness statement, voice files and the picture of the person I had downloaded from the CCTV system and up-loaded all of this to the intelligence system. I then carried on with my patrol. It was important to do this immediately as there could have been other officers in the town centre who might have stopped the woman for questioning and would not otherwise known that she was wanted for questioning in relation to the credit card deception. It also meant I did not have to go back to the station, fill in a paper form,

re-type the form into the computer then go back out on patrol – a process that used to take out over two hours of my eight-hour shift on the beat.

“ A couple of days later, a colleague was on patrol in another part of the town centre when he saw a woman hanging around outside a department store, acting suspiciously. He approached the woman and questioned her; however, she could not speak English well and was not able to provide him with an ID card, or any other form of identification. Using his hand-held biometric reader he captured an image and fingerprint reading of the woman and undertook an electronic search based across police and immigration systems. He received two matches: the intelligence record I had loaded a couple of days earlier was presented back to him; plus one from the immigration service stating the woman was known to them and should be apprehended.

“ Without the tools and information I had at my disposal, this person could not have been linked to the credit card deception that had occurred two days earlier and subsequently would not have been identified as the person the immigration service were seeking.

“ Having at last a full set of information at my fingertips has really increased my ability to make better decisions at an incident. I now feel safer when dealing with crime and criminals and am much better positioned to support the community. I believe these tools and information provision have directly contributed to the current increases in public confidence in the service we provide.”