

The Police National Database

Release One - what it will do for you



The PND gathers together information from more than 150 local databases into one national system

The PND is a powerful new tool to help UK police forces and other crime fighting organisations to share intelligence more effectively in order to protect children and vulnerable adults, counter terrorism and prevent and detect crime.

It derives from a national need to improve the way police share information – highlighted after the murders of schoolgirls Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells in Soham in 2002.

All UK police organisations can access the PND, and it contains the most important records from every UK police force, ready for other forces to view.

It draws together existing crime, custody, intelligence, domestic violence and child abuse records and other operational police information currently held only on local force systems.

Most importantly, it gives users direct – and secure – access to this information.

PND went live in the first UK police force in November 2010.

Release 1 capability

Forces are now using the PND's first release of functionality, which allows appropriately vetted and authorised users to:

- Search nominal records and directly access local force intelligence and other operational information on a national basis
- View nominal records gathered with similar data into a 'Match Group' of probable matches
- See who else has run a search using the same search criteria - giving an early indication if someone else is working on similar information
- See free text information supplied by a force in support of a marker
- Arrange search results in a view which suits the user, and saving those results

- Populate existing secure, restricted or 'locked' groups with users who are members of that group, create groups and add members, including users in other forces
- Receive information and guidance on the page they are viewing through the 'help text' facility, extracted from the User Guide material
- Receive updates on planned down time, new functionality, force data load and matters of interest via the bulletin board which will be displayed after log-on
- View attachments, such as photographs and documents
- See the review, retention or disposal date of the record they are viewing
- Audit the activity of PND users.

More advanced capability will follow from 2011, as the PND is developed and additional features and technology are deployed.

Taking information sharing further

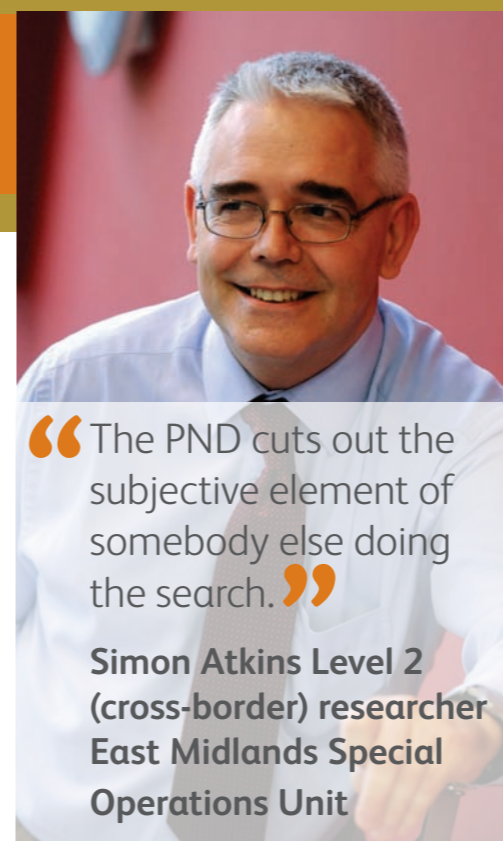
The PND replaces the INI, an interim solution that allows one force to check which other forces may hold information about a named individual.

The PND takes information sharing further by giving forces direct access to the information that lies behind the nominal record, speeding up inquiries and giving police officers and staff more time to focus on other areas of the investigation.

It will radically change how the police service exchanges and shares information. Many forces had been operating in total isolation and struggling to overcome force and geographical boundaries, missing vital evidence because they could not see the full intelligence picture or wasting valuable time waiting for colleagues from other forces to share records.

The PND gives forces direct access to the underlying record – although PND users will have to decide what information in that record is relevant and what to do with it.

But the information will be made available more quickly and directly, meaning users can make their own decisions on its importance and its relevance to information which they may already have.



“The PND cuts out the subjective element of somebody else doing the search.”

Simon Atkins Level 2 (cross-border) researcher East Midlands Special Operations Unit

The benefits

The PND's impact will be immediate and forces can start realising the operational benefits straight away.

The PND will enable significant efficiency benefits through much swifter processes for exchanging information between forces. Forces will no longer have to request information from other forces and wait for responses, as access to the underlying record will be far quicker.

Analysts for example, will be able to use their expertise to evaluate the PND's findings to identify links between criminals and pinpoint criminal networks.

The PND enables forces to:

- Identify new lines of enquiry
- Identify new patterns in crime at an early stage
- Remove the current artificial borders
- Perform much better risk-assessments and improve decision-making
- Uncover bad character evidence to show a suspect's true nature.

Getting the job done

The key benefit to Release One is direct access to full records, saving forces time and making inquiries more efficient. But how will it work in reality? Here are some examples:

- **Child protection officers** will be able to see if the information they are looking for is also being researched by staff in other forces
- **Counter terrorism specialists** will be able to connect intelligence about suspects and see the extent of their associations and network of contacts across the country
- **Analysts** will no longer have to rely on colleagues from other forces to look for patterns or details which might be the missing piece of the jigsaw
- **SIOs** will be able to quickly assess the strongest leads by seeing the full intelligence picture



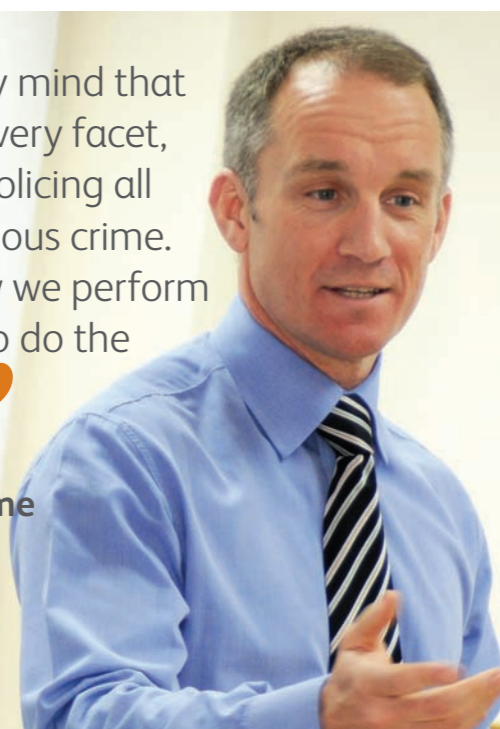
“Putting pieces of a 'jigsaw' together is pivotal to the progress of the inquiry, influences our next steps and dictates the urgency.”

Det Sgt Anne-Marie Large Stafford child abuse investigation unit

- **Domestic violence teams** will be able to share intelligence about suspects who move around the country, helping to build a better and stronger case against offenders.

“There is no doubt in my mind that the PND will improve every facet, from neighbourhood policing all the way through to serious crime. It will revolutionise how we perform by giving us the tools to do the job really efficiently.”

Det Supt Rob Mason Joint Head of Major Crime Thames Valley Police



“Spelling of names is a real issue and lots of criminals use pseudonyms when trying to avoid arrest. With the PND, there will also be many other ways of identification such as car registrations and telephone numbers.”

Det Sgt Sharon Stratton Violent Crime Directorate Metropolitan Police

“It can take days to retrieve information from other forces and it’s the duplication of information requests which is so frustrating. With PND, there is great potential for making the process much more efficient.”

Det Supt Rob Mason

Joint Head of Major Crime, Thames Valley Police

New ways of working

The PND will deliver significant benefits, but it will also mean new ways of working.

Staff will be less burdened with responding to requests for information from other forces – as they currently do with INI.

But conducting your own searches on the PND will take time and skill. You will need to plan out your search parameters and think carefully about what it is you are looking for. Because you are interrogating a very large bank of data, searches need to be focussed otherwise the amount of information returned will be too big to work with.

How the data which the PND returns is analysed is very important. Your search may return one result, or 100. It may show that other forces are looking for similar information, or that some of your results are matched to unexpected individuals.

Decisions you make when viewing the data could change the direction of an inquiry, so learning how to evaluate the PND’s findings is vital. Training provided by your force will help you understand the business implications of using the PND and what it means for your role.

What the first users think...

Northumbria: “From what we have seen so far, the PND is very quick, very easy to use and very precise. The more people use it, and the more it is populated, the better it will be. Of course there are teething problems, and there are still areas where it can improve, but overall we are very impressed and the system is very good and very effective.” Det Sgt Tracey Agnew, force intelligence bureau.

Lancashire: “The immediate benefit of Release 1 to all users is being able to see another force’s data without having to contact that force, and the facility to store and easily retrieve searches. It simplifies, speeds up and streamlines information sharing, which is incredibly important to policing.” Insp Phil Cawley, PND Project Manager.

Dorset: “The PND will continue to develop into an increasingly important policing tool. I am sure that within time we will wonder how we ever coped before the PND existed. As more forces agree to share their data via the PND the greater the business benefits will be. The ability to look at other forces data directly at any time of the day or night will be incredibly beneficial in relation to real time incidents. Historically we would have had to contact a force or a number of forces to ascertain this information. This will enable forces to manage risk more easily and assist to protect the most vulnerable in our society.” Insp John Ledden, PND Project Manager.

Key facts

1. A study to identify and evaluate the quantitative and qualitative benefits which PND will bring to policing is underway
2. The first drop of Release 1 functionality provides more advanced functionality than INI and is a direct replacement.

**For more information visit POLKA
or contact impact.programme@npia.pnn.police.uk**