National Disclosure Improvement plan National Disclosure Forum









Attendees	
Gregor McGill (Co-chair), Crown Prosecution Service	Alyson Sprawson, Senior Presiding Judge office
Nick Ephgrave (Co-Chair), Surrey police	Richard Chown, Ministry of Justice
Kate Anderson, Crown Prosecution Service	Kerry Hudson, LCCSA
Yin Jones, Crown Prosecution Service	Janet Arkinstall, Law Society
Purnima Uppal, Attorney General's Office	Rodney Warren, Criminal Law Committee
Anthony Hill, Attorney General's Office	Nick Sharp, HMRC
Stella Curran, Home Office	
Jeremy Burton, Surrey police	Asia Schuler – note taker
Apologies	
Allison Hunter QC, Criminal Bar Association	Matthew Grist, Ministry of Justice
Sarah Pritchard, National Crime Agency	Daniel Bonich, CLSA
Joanna Fiddian, HMCTS	David Tucker, College of Policing
Richard Atkinson, Criminal Law Committee	Ian Kelcey, Law Society
District Judge Karim Ezzat, Chief Magistrates office	Brendan Foreman, National Crime Agency
Richard Atkins QC, Bar Council	Martin Huxley, National Crime Agency
Mary Aspinall-Miles, Criminal Bar Association	

1. Welcomes and Introductions

The co-chairs, Gregor McGill, Director of Legal Services and Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave welcomed members to the second National Disclosure forum. The Forum in turn introduced themselves and the agency/department they were representing.

2. Minutes and Actions

The Forum discussed the minutes and members provided action updates.

The CPS confirmed they are content to share their current disclosure eLearning training material.

The minutes were agreed.

3. Update from NDIP Disclosure Board and upcoming Disclosure Seminar

Gregor McGill reminded the Forum of the upcoming Disclosure Seminar on Wednesday 19 September. The Seminar was a follow up to the one held in January and would look back at what has been achieved through NDIP since.

Gregor McGill and CC Nick Ephgrave are on the Seminar agenda to discuss the NDIP National Disclosure Forum as they saw it as a positive way to raise and resolve issues collaboratively and something that could be replicated locally. Both welcomed views from the members on the group.

The Forum echoed their positive opinions on the Forum and wished for it to continue.

It was noted NDIP Phase 2 would focus on national work being delivered at a local level and this Forum would be a way to achieve deliverables.

CC Nick Ephgrave provided a brief update on developments of NDIP Phase 2. It was acknowledged NDIP 1 was created to reactive to the disclosure issues then and looked at providing results quickly. Out of the 42 actions, 41 are complete with the final action not yet reaching its deadline.

The Forum will be shared a copy of NDIP Phase 2 when published. It was anticipated publication would take place following the AG's review.

4. Updates on AGO review

Anthony Hill informed the Forum of the background to the AG's review on disclosure which was due to be published later this year. It was not expected there would be wholesale changes to the previous draft shared. The review would still focus on practical solutions and adopting a more coordinated approach to disclosure.

5. <u>Digital Caselines System</u>

The Forum discussed the use of DCS which currently has no unused material tab. Development will commence to create an unused material tab which will be a useful space to log requests. At previous meetings the Forum discussed the issue of the communications log being limited to only prosecutors being able to update this.

The Forum explored how the unused material tab could work, and acknowledge previous pleas not to create a new system that could potentially be too burdensome.

Once initial enquiries are made it was agreed the defence and judiciary would be engaged. Alyson Sprawson agreed to assist in sharing proposals with the judiciary.

6. Magistrates' court disclosure

It had been acknowledged the Criminal Bar Association (CBA) has recently schedule a working group to look at Magistrates' court disclosure. The CBA were not able to attend the Forum and it was agreed this topic would be added to the next agenda as members wished to hear updates and contribute.

7. AOB

An issue was raised with disclosure and a Police force. The CPS agreed they could follow this up with relevant Area to check if they had experienced disclosure related issues too.

Nick Ephgrave informed the Forum of the new app allowing police to read guidelines, charging advice and other material on their phones. The app is currently at the prototype stage but is already appearing positive at how quickly it can deal with the volume of electronic material.

The Forum asked that during development it should be considered if the defence can have access to search history on the app as it would be of interest.

Meeting closed.