



POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LANCASHIRE

DECISION: 2020 – 27	DATE: 7th December 2020
TITLE: VIRTUAL REALITY FUNDING	
REPORT BY: STEFF HULL	

Executive Summary

The Digital Media Investigation Unit within Lancashire Constabulary are purchasing virtual reality headsets and equipment to assist and improve the training experience for police officers and staff.

The decision seeks to confirm the allocation of £4,392.50 towards the cost of purchasing virtual reality training equipment.

Recommendations

The Commissioner is recommended to approve the allocation of £4,392.50 from the Reducing Reoffending Fund towards the cost of virtual reality headsets for training purposes.

Police and Crime Commissioner

Date: 14th December 2020

PART I

1. Background and Advice

The Digital Media Investigations Unit (DMIU) are piloting training staff and officers through virtual reality.

Virtual reality training is the digital simulation of lifelike scenarios for training purposes. This training will enable staff to explore and participate in real life situations in a controlled environment.

Digital media investigations is one such suggested training area to pilot the headsets. Officers need to identify digital devices that could either hold evidence or cause risks for example, digital doorbells or an Alexa (Pre COVID-19 this exercise was conducted in a crime scene house).

The equipment purchased will include a 360 degree camera that will allow DMIU to create their own virtual scenarios using footage from real life cases. Purchasing the camera means the unit will build training packages in house and therefore future development costs will be kept to a minimum.

DMIU are currently exploring a potential collaboration with the UCLAN drama department where students could volunteer to act out real life scenarios that will be filmed for training purposes.

Other potential pilot training areas include; driver training, criminal investigation training and firearms.

A key benefit of virtual reality training is the ability to train more officers at the same time.

In the future virtual reality training could be offered externally to schools in respect of cyber bullying, businesses to provide training to protect against fraud and community volunteers.

DMIU are purchasing 15 headsets at the cost of £8,659. LANPAC have agreed to match fund £4,392.50. Commitment from the Commissioner together with the support from LANPAC will allow DMIU to purchase a further 15 headsets meaning the unit will have 30 headsets to trial virtual reality training.

2. Links to the Police and Crime Plan

Virtual reality training supports all four priorities identified in the Police and Crime Plan; tackling crime and reoffending, supporting victims and vulnerable people, developing safe and confident communities and in particularly protecting local policing – modernising policing through better use of new technology.

3. Consultation

N/A

4. Implications

a. Legal

None to consider.

b. Financial

Contained in the report above.

c. Equality considerations

Equality data is currently gathered on all applications.

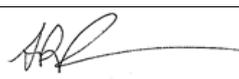
5. Background Papers

None.

6. Public access to information

Information in this form is subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and other legislation.

Part 1 of this form will be made available on the PCC website within 3 working days of approval. Any facts/advice/recommendations that should not be made available on request should not be included in Part 1 but instead on the separate Part 2 form.

Officer declaration	Date
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	
FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS – As above	 07/12/2020
EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS – As above	
CONSULTATION – As above	
<p>Director to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (Monitoring Officer) I have been informed about the proposal and confirm that financial, legal and equalities advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report. I am satisfied that this is an appropriate request to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire.</p> <p>Signature:  Date: 14th December 2020</p>	