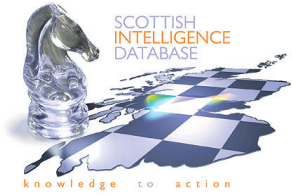




case study



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## Intelligence sharing reduces crime across Scotland

The Scottish Intelligence Database (SID) makes Scotland the first country in the UK to successfully exploit technology to achieve true cross border policing and information sharing. All 17,250 police officers and over 12,000 support staff at Scotland's eight police forces and agencies have access to intelligence gathered throughout Scotland.

### Achieving true cross-border policing

Intelligence across Scotland was previously held in disparate databases within each force. There was no mechanism to share intelligence – instead, police officers had access to information upon verbal request with justification. Detective Superintendent Ian McCandlish explains: "intelligence was shared in paper format or over the telephone through secure communication. As a result, there was no way to view the needs of other police forces and police officers were unaware whether a piece of intelligence they possessed would help to secure an arrest in a neighbouring area, or frequently even in their own area."



*"improving the consistency and accessibility of information and allowing the Scottish forces to deliver improved value for money and safe communities"*

Peter Wilson  
Chief Constable  
Fife Constabulary

Peter Wilson, Chief Constable of Fife stated: "There is a need to deliver and maintain a unified approach to future generations of police support systems that facilitate communication across traditional boundaries, improving the consistency and accessibility of information and allowing the Scottish forces to deliver improved value for money and safe communities."

In October 2004, the Scottish Intelligence Database (SID) fulfilled its aim when it went live across Scotland's eight police forces and the Scottish Crime and Drugs Enforcement Agency (SCDEA).

Using the same intelligence system and processes means that police officers have the power to share intelligence between forces and across geographies to help maintain a unified approach to policing. Achieving this common standard across Scotland ensures that the value of intelligence is consistent no matter which police force has entered it into the system. The solution instantly provides every police officer with access to relevant intelligence, giving police the advantage over criminals by enabling them to do their jobs more effectively and safely.

*"improved access to intelligence information throughout Scotland... and improved the quality and consistency of the intelligence"*

Alastair Luff  
Managing Director  
ABM

The SID Project Team has worked closely with ABM to develop SID, which utilises the Intelligence module within ABM's Information Management System (IMS), a wider application suite encompassing Incident, Crime and Property Management.

Alastair Luff, Managing Director of ABM comments: "The introduction of SID has not only improved access to intelligence information throughout Scotland, but has also improved the quality and consistency of the intelligence gathered. This is a significant achievement which has been recognised by Sir Michael Bichard in his inquiry in to the murder of Jessica Chapman and Holly Wells and by the Home Office in their independent assessment of the benefits of information sharing."

## Gaining Acceptance

Educating Scottish police officers to use SID and understand the benefits of a national intelligence system was paramount to its success. Ian McCandlish comments: "The introduction of SID resulted in a certain amount of change within each of our police forces as they

*There has been a 500% plus increase in intelligence submitted across Scotland since SID went live*

adapted to new working practices for intelligence gathering and retrieval, but as soon as officers began to see the real benefits of the system it was clear that they would be missing out of a great deal without it."

Training was central to the success of SID but also around intelligence itself and how sharing intelligence can play a vital role in strengthening police work. This has helped to raise the profile of intelligence work in Scotland, as police officers begin to see the rewards from its correct use and the benefits of the National Intelligence Model (NIM). There has been a 500% plus increase in intelligence submitted across Scotland since SID went live across Scotland, as police officers accept and recognise the benefits.

## Tackling major crime on the frontline

In the past, the Scottish Crime and Drugs Enforcement Agency (SCDEA) would have to visit or telephone each force in order to seek out intelligence, which was incredibly time consuming and frequently unsuccessful in delivering results. The enhanced capabilities following the introduction of SID enables SCDEA officers to quickly and easily identify links between pieces of information, even down to particular clothing or jewellery, gaining a fuller and higher level picture on anyone they are investigating. Having this improved picture allows the agency to target those individuals and organisations that are operating across borders both locally, nationally and internationally.

The rewards of sharing intelligence should not be forgotten. Ian McCandlish explains: "Before the introduction of SID a police officer may have, and often did, work in an area which bounded another division within their force or even another force, as I did some years ago. No matter how much knowledge I may have had about my own area, with no system enabling me to share information across the boundaries, it was difficult to work as effectively as we do today. I only wish I knew then, what I know now.

*"It was difficult to work as effectively as we do today. I only wish I knew then, what I know now"*

*Detective Superintendent  
Ian McCandlish  
SID Project Manager*

## The Next Generation

The work has not stopped with the introduction of SID. 2008 has seen the implementation of links to the Violent and Sex Offenders Register (**ViSOR**), National Gazetteer, National Automatic Number Plate Recognition (**ANPR**) system and I2's Analysts Notebook.

*"The next generation of SID... extends the intelligence picture and maintains Scotland at the forefront of information sharing"*

*Alastair Luff  
Managing Director  
ABM*

Alastair Luff comments: "SID has made a significant impact to intelligence and information sharing across Scotland. However, the need to extend that picture against the continued development of organised crime is essential.

We are now working towards the next generation of SID, providing a new user interface, adding additional ways to input intelligence (e.g. mobile data), bringing intelligence in from additional recognised sources, extending the reporting functionality and pushing targeted intelligence to the right officers. All of these additional additions extends the intelligence picture and maintains Scotland at the forefront of information sharing."