



NATIONAL DATA SHARING FOR BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Emerging town and city business crime reduction partnerships are adopting information technology to store and analyse data on persistent offenders - The National Business Information System (NBIS) provided by Hicom Business Solutions is the first nationally linked system

In recognition of increasing business crime in the UK, the Home Office established Action Against Business Crime (AABC) as the national organisation for Business Crime Reduction Partnerships (BCRPs). AABC provides a national focus for efforts of business crime partnerships working to reduce crime against business across the country, as well as creating a link between the British Retail Consortium (BRC) and the Home Office to expand the work and impact of BCRPs.

The majority of business crime remains outside the view of formal authorities thus a high



WE SEE NBIS AS THE NEXT LOGICAL STEP PROVIDING A VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE PROCESS OF GATHERING INFORMATION AND INTELLIGENCE SHARING -

ALAN DANN, PROJECT MANAGER AT KENT POLICE

proportion of crime is never reported to the police. However, in most cases the businesses concerned will make a record of the incident. Hicom has identified the need to harness the wealth of crime related data currently held by the private sector, and have developed NBIS as an effective tool to pool and evaluate this information more effectively.

Developed over a number of years in association with the DTI and the BRC, NBIS is being deployed throughout the UK. NBIS promotes an innovative form of partnership working between businesses, local authority, police and local government

agencies seeking to adopt an intelligence led approach to identifying and targeting prolific offenders in towns, cities and shopping centres.

There are now over 70 locations throughout the UK using NBIS/BICS (Business Information Crime System) and early successes are already being achieved. Shortly after NBIS was commissioned in Chester, two offenders were arrested for retail theft. A search on NBIS established that they were known and had been arrested in Bolton. Without NBIS, the Bolton partnership would not have known of the Chester incident, and Chester would not have known of the Bolton connection. However, the most significant aspect of this incident is that both offenders came from Liverpool but were not known to Liverpool. This access to accurate and up to date information provided greater detail of knowledge on their modus operandi and the extent and patterns of their criminal behaviour.

One of the main benefits of NBIS is its ability to

provide secure connectivity to other organisations such as the police, probation service and local authority. Kent Police, for example, are part funding the deployment of NBIS to 17 business crime reduction partnerships, as well as two terminals in their police headquarters.

NBIS is unique in how it holds and presents its information. Using browser technologies, information can be searched and retrieved with ease and in a variety of different formats. A number of data entry tools have been developed to help record and maintain data in an efficient manner.



DEVELOPED IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY AND THE BRITISH RETAIL CONSORTIUM

Close consultation with the Information Commissioners Office, has ensured that NBIS enables data controllers to be data compliant, and monitors both data access and record reviews to ensure that data held is relevant and accurate for the purpose for which it is being retained.

Profiling and analysis can be undertaken with ease. Using powerful integrated analysis tools, NBIS can provide reports and statistics that can be used to monitor and measure criminal activity, and more importantly the threat of criminal activity. In addition, NBIS can track and monitor breach of exclusion notices and anti-social behaviour.

Central to the NBIS design is a powerful server accessed via a virtual private network that will provide partnerships with sophisticated facilities for the management, analysis and sharing of crime data. Sharing data on known offenders across the UK NBIS network enables partnerships to monitor criminals and the threat of crime more effectively, leading to reduced business crime. ■

FURTHER INFORMATION:

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