

VALUE FOR MONEY

IT DEVELOPMENT

Background

It was evident that the Authority needed to have a greater involvement with the Force in the development of IT systems.

The Authority adding value

In making the very best use of its resources and skills available, the Authority appointed a Professor of Information Systems as the Lead member for IS. Professor Gordon Bull is, or has been, a member of a number of programme and project boards relating to information Systems, ensuring the Authority plays a key part in securing value for money in an area of major spending.

- `Nemesis Board`, dealing with the Crime and Intelligence Management System
- IMPACT – overseeing of the preparation for the introduction of the Police National Computer
- Mobile Access Steering Group
- Information Management Board
- IS Modernisation Board, dealing with the delivery of sustainable and affordable IT systems
- IS Department Accountability meetings
- Capital Strategy Board

In addition, there have been regular meetings with the Head and senior staff of the IS Department to discuss issues.

Examples of his interventions are given below.

1. Management of Police Information

Professor Bull undertook a review of Management of Police Information (MoPI) in Sussex and the provision of data for the Police national database (PND) and, as a follow-up, gave a presentation on data quality to the MoPI Board. Feedback from the Force Information Manager indicates the impact.

[`Thanks Gordon – I found your presentation really powerful and I agree that “top down” is essential. I will reinforce the role of ACPO as suggested – we clearly need to think however how we can actually enforce that`.](#)

[Alan Ladley](#)
[Force Information Manager](#)

2. IS Modernisation Programme

Professor Bull personally undertook a review of the Single Sign-on Project and recommended that there should be a much firmer link to the Sussex IAMS project within the IMPACT programme, and suggested that project and programme boards had standing items on their agendas to ensure that SSO and IAMS are kept in step. This has happened. As a result, the work on IAMS

has influenced the direction of the Single Sign-on project, ensuring better products and use of resources.

Professor Bull recommended that QA could be approached differently, particularly when a project arrives at Gateway. He outlined an approach to QA that engages a range of people and embeds the concept of Quality within a team/department. The project/programme have agreed areas where independent scrutiny will add value to the overall governance of the programme and have implemented this.

Professor Bull has also made the strategic recommendation that the Infrastructure project should be brought in-house. This was agreed by the Board, realising cashable savings for the project. Professor Bull also recommended that training on Service Orientated Architecture was undertaken as part of a move to multi-skilling the IS workforce. This has been undertaken.

3. Appointment of new Head of IS Department

As the examples above demonstrate, Professor Bull has been heavily involved in the setting of the strategic direction for this department. Regarding the recruitment of a Head of IS Department, Professor Bull met with ACC Wilkinson to discuss the job description for the post as he did not agree with the job description proposals. The final version was agreed, using Professor Bull's proposals as the basis for the job description. The final job description accurately described the kind of person needed and the roles and responsibilities required to be undertaken, and a successful appointment has recently been made.

Following Professor Bull's appointment in 2007, his role has developed over three years from an initial observer role to one of being fully engaged with the work of the department. He is now able to offer advice and criticism across a wide range of policy and strategy.

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