


CASE STUDY: LANCASHIRE & MANCHESTER

NABIS delivers a unique multi-agency approach to tackling gun crime by providing a national centre of excellence in relation to forensic science, intelligence and knowledge around the, use, supply and manufacture of illegal firearms and ammunition. This case study illustrates how NABIS works to support firearms investigations.



1 Ballistic material has been recovered in Lancashire. The incident has been recorded on the NABIS Database and the ballistics has been sent to one of the NABIS Hubs. The incident must be recorded accurately on the Database otherwise information from the forensic examination and any associated intelligence will be useless to the investigating officer.

2 The NABIS Hub forensically examines the ballistics to identify what the weapon is and to determine if and where the weapon has been used before. The latest 3D Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) is used to establish links between ballistic materials. For example bullets can be linked to both crime scenes and recovered weapons

3 The weapon is identified as a self loading pistol and IBIS links it to numerous offences in Manchester including four attempt murders and one intent to cause fear. This information is used to create an inferred weapon on the NABIS Database to illustrate the presence of a firearm which has been identified from recovered ballistic material but has yet to be recovered.

4 The NABIS Intelligence Cell reviews the information. The Intel Cell compiles information about people, objects, locations and events which are linked to gun crime incidents and ballistic items both contemporarily and retrospectively.

5 The pistol is linked to a car and a fingerprint recovered from the scene of one of the attempt murders in Manchester. It is also linked to a second self loading pistol from the scene of another attempt murder.

6 A NABIS Intelligence package is created, which includes information about the inferred firearm, which enables the forces where the weapon has been used to know it is being used in their force area and has yet to be recovered. Information about the vehicle and the fingerprint are also included, which will assist in the recovery of the pistol.