

CASE STUDY: LONDON & 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 received from the scene of a firearms incident in London. Details of the incident, including a description of the ballistic material are recorded on the NABIS Database before being sent to one of the four NABIS Hubs. The NABIS Database is a national system for the recording of gun crime incidents, recovered firearms and ammunition, and associated intelligence.

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.

3 The weapon is identified to be a self loading pistol. IBIS shows that the pistol is linked to two other incidents in Manchester; one of which was a fatal shooting and the other incident links the pistol to two offenders, where it was recovered.

4 This information is used to update the incident on the NABIS Database. It is then reviewed by the NABIS Intelligence Cell, which compiles information about people, objects, locations and events which are linked to gun crime incidents and ballistic items both contemporarily and retrospectively.

5 A second self loading pistol is subsequently linked to the fatal shooting in Manchester and also linked to two other incidents in the same area. At one of these incidents a knife has been recovered. This weapon was recovered in London.

6 NABIS has been able to use forensics and intelligence to identify and link a self loading pistol to a number of incidents in Manchester; to two offenders and to a second self loading pistol.