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It has been a varied and busy time for NABIS; ranging from tragic terrorist events in Europe to lengthy prison sentences at home and a significant case for firearms offences; which means that the starting point for the courts to sentence offenders has been raised.

During the past year NABIS has identified new styles of conversion methods for firearms recovered in the UK. NABIS continue to support all aspects of law enforcement on emerging trends and identifying firearms previously discharged.

The NABIS team has also been working on a Collaboration Agreement that sets out forces support to NABIS and what forces can expect from us. The final version was signed off in June 2017 and will go live later this year.

The Law Commission review of firearms legislation was another significant piece of work for NABIS. Evidence and opinions were collated from all police forces and NABIS which culminated in two submissions to the Law Commission. We also presented at a Law Commission symposium on the criminal use of antique firearms. NABIS led on the consultation process for the issue of antique firearms and reported back to the Firearms Threat Group.

In response to the findings of the Law Commission on firearms the Policing and Crime Act 2017 came into effect on 2nd May 2017. There will be further consultation on obsolete calibres which NABIS will lead on, on behalf of the NPCC CUF lead and NPCC Firearms licensing lead.

NABIS is working with Staffordshire University by offering two internship placements to forensic students. This is a first for NABIS and we see this as a good opportunity to develop the next generation of Firearms Forensic Scientists.

NABIS has continued to offer support to our European colleagues through the EU Firearms EMPACT and the European Firearms Experts group. A prestigious Western Balkans firearms conference took place earlier this year at Europol; NABIS organised the event as well as providing some of the keynote speakers.

We previously hosted a European Conference to show case the UK approach to tackling the criminal use of firearms. This involved Forensic Experts and Firearms Investigators from the 28 Member States visiting one of the NABIS labs and attending a conference in Birmingham. The event was so successful that our European colleagues asked NABIS to host another one the following year on Firearms Tracing and Firearms Focal Points.

NABIS has submitted a bid to the Police Transformation Fund to set up a project team to design a new national approach to firearms forensics and ballistic intelligence. The concept is to create a blueprint for a national one stop shop; this will simplify the process of firearms submissions for forces and remove the necessity for them to seek forensic accreditation for matters like firearms classification statements. A decision on the bid is expected later in 2017. In conclusion we expect more busy months ahead but all focused on supporting police forces and law enforcement agencies to keep the public safe.

Detective Chief Superintendent Jo Chilton Head of NABIS
HISTORY OF NABIS

The National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) was launched operationally in Autumn 2008.

The service provides fast time, comprehensive intelligence to combat the criminal use of firearms.

Forensic experts based at hubs in Birmingham, Glasgow, London and Manchester examine ballistic items for UK police forces to provide key information for investigators, as well as detecting gun crime trends.

NABIS holds a registry of recovered firearms and ammunition coming into police possession. We offer a ballistics comparison capability to link crimes and incidents (within 24 hours or faster in urgent cases).

We also have an associated intelligence database to provide strategic and tactical intelligence capable of focusing law enforcement activity.

NABIS supports the work of the NPCC Criminal Use of Firearms Portfolio.

We work closely with partners including the Home Office, NCA and Border Force to provide a co-ordinated approach to tackling gun crime.

NABIS is a key driver for legislative change, offering expertise and best practice advice on firearms related matters nationally and internationally.

Find out more by visiting our website www.nabis.police.uk

You can follow us on Twitter @NABIS_UK
DEPUTY ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER Steve Rodhouse (Metropolitan Police Service) has served as the NABIS Senior Responsible Officer (SRO). He chaired the NABIS Governance Board who meet twice a year. The SRO role has now been taken up by Gary Cann, Assistant Chief Constable at West Midlands Police.

DAC Rodhouse said: “As the Senior Responsible Officer for NABIS I was pleased to be part of the team that delivers NABIS services for UK law enforcement. During the past year we have witnessed international atrocities committed using firearms and we have also seen a marked increase in the numbers of weapons being discharged in several force areas within the UK. Operational teams across the country are recovering some of these weapons from the hands of criminals every day but nevertheless the use of firearms remains a significant threat to the safety of communities across the country.

“The UK has a unique approach to tackling gun crime. The NABIS model with its combined use of forensics, intelligence and knowledge in one central national unit is the model many countries around the world aspire to and many wish to replicate. This report details some of the important work that NABIS does and lets the public see how NABIS helps reduce the threat from the criminal use of firearms in the UK.

“With this context, the services offered by NABIS are all the more important. Our ability to understand the threat is underpinned by the forensic analysis and interpretation of firearms incidents delivered by NABIS on behalf of law enforcement. I would urge the public and all forces to pay close attention to the contents of this report and to continue to support the good work that NABIS does.”

Det Ch Supt Jo Chilton, Head of NABIS, added: “We would like to thank Mr Rodhouse for his support of NABIS and welcome Gary Cann back as our SRO“.
Chief Constable Dave Thompson, of West Midlands Police, was the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC) lead on the Criminal Use of Firearms (CUF) during 2016/17 and previously. This portfolio is now managed by Assistant Chief Constable Helen McMillan of Northumbria Police. During CC Thompson’s time as NPCC CUF lead he worked closely with NABIS to understand and address the nature and threat from the illegal use of firearms in the UK.

The UK has one of the lowest gun crime threats in the world, with firearms featuring in less than one per cent of all recorded crime. The UK has recently started to see a rise in recorded gun crime incidents, however, overall the UK has seen a reduction in firearms crime of more than 47% in the last ten years. Firearms in criminal hands can have devastating consequences for families and communities and the threat is changing. One of the trends which emerged over recent years is offenders increasingly using obsolete calibre or ‘antique’ firearms, which are easier to get hold of.

As well as tackling the emerging threat that has identified a very small minority of firearms certificate holders and Registered Firearms dealers being involved in criminality, NABIS worked on behalf of CC Thompson to recognise loopholes in legislation. We collated information from forces and assisted the Law Commission in their work to introduce changes in the latest Policing & Crime Bill.

In 2016 the new National Gun Crime Investigation Manual was launched. This forms part of the College of Policing’s Authorised Professional Practice. The project was managed by Detective Chief Inspector Matt Markham (West Midlands Police) on behalf of the NPCC CUF lead and NABIS. It sets out guidance for officers on the best way to deal with firearms crime.

Det Ch Supt Jo Chilton, Head of NABIS, added: “Thanks to Mr Thompson for all his work in the national firearms role and we would like to extend a warm welcome to ACC McMillan as the new NPCC CUF lead. We look forward to working with her.”
GUN CRIME LEVELS

Recorded levels of gun crime in the UK remains one of the lowest in the world, this is due in part to border controls and strict legislation for firearms offences. NABIS works in conjunction with Border Force and the National Crime Agency to share intelligence, stop the flow of illegal firearms and help put offenders before the courts.

Latest figures from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) issued in July 2017 cover the period year ending March 2017 and show an increase on the previous 12 months for firearms offences in England and Wales.

Offences involving firearms increased by 23% (to 6,375) compared with the previous year (5,182 offences). This was largely driven by a 24% increase in offences involving handguns (up to 2,685 from 2,157) and partly by a 15% increase in offences involving imitation weapons such as BB guns (up to 1,642 from 1,431), a 44% increase in offences involving shotguns (up to 592 from 411) and a 27% increase in offences involving unidentified firearms (up to 844 from 666). The latest rise continues an upward trend seen in firearms offences in the last few years, however, offences are still 34% below a decade ago (in the year ending March 2007).

Over the last year, more than two-thirds (30 of the 43) of police forces recorded a rise in offences involving firearms. The force that showed the largest volume increase was the Metropolitan Police.

The coverage of the firearms offence type is wide, covering offences involving serious weapons such as handguns or shotguns as well as less serious weapons such as BB guns and CS gas. While some of the increase in the number of offences involving firearms will be a genuine rise, it is likely that improvements in crime recording will also be a factor. For example, around one-quarter (24%) of the increase is in offences involving some of these less serious weapons. It is likely that the police are now including these offences in their returns when previously they were being excluded. Furthermore, around one-fifth (21%) of the rise is due to an increase in possession of firearms offences with intent. It is possible that previously these offences would have been recorded as simple possession offences, which are not covered by this collection.

Evidence of some genuine increase in offences involving firearms can be seen in admissions data for NHS hospitals in England, which showed increases in all three categories of assault by firearm discharge, from 86 admissions in the year ending March 2015 to 109 admissions in the year ending March 2016.
Firearms continue to be involved in a very small proportion of total police recorded crime (less than 1%) and not all incidents included in the ONS statistics involve a gun being fired – a firearm may be used as a blunt instrument or a threat.

Several police forces held firearms surrenders in the 12 month period which generated additional items for NABIS to process.

The total number of ballistic submissions to NABIS labs (Manchester and Birmingham) during 2016/17 was 1190. These two labs cover all forces in England & Wales except the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) and City Of London Police. During 2016/17 the central lab in Birmingham accepted a total of 550 submissions and 1338 exhibits. The Manchester lab accepted 640 submissions and 1638 exhibits.

The MPS Forensic Firearms Unit recorded 1153 submissions during 2016/17.

The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) Forensic Firearms Unit delivers all forensic firearms services for London. The examination of recovered firearms, ballistic material and shooting incidents in London are resourced and funded in its entirety by the MPS. The MPS also supplies funding to support its contribution to the National Intelligence Requirements for NABIS. This collaborative partnership helps NABIS and the MPS to supply a truly national service that protects the communities all over the UK.

The Police Scotland forensic lab, which works in a similar fashion to the MPS Forensic Firearms Unit, had 298 firearms/ballistics submissions during the same 12 month period.

There is no limit on how many ballistic items (exhibits) can be included per submission, although on average most forces submit between two and three exhibits each time. Submissions to our Birmingham and Manchester labs relating to homicide or an injury shooting need to be completed within 48hrs. Shots fired cases have a seven day deadline. The MPS and Police Scotland labs work to their own submission guidelines.
Independent Advisory Group - A Word From The Chairman

Roy Saatchi is the Chair of the NPCC Independent Advisory Group for Criminal Use of Firearms.

I’ve been a passionate believer in the effectiveness of advisory groups ever since my time running the BBC’s regional services in north-west England and receiving feedback from the local and regional programme advisory panels. They were critical friends. They had no executive power but they were engaged in what we were doing and were able to offer advice and provide the perspective of the viewer and listener whilst remaining truly independent.

Our IAG role is similar. We are there to assist the National Police Chiefs’ Council; NABIS; and other agencies in providing independent advice on tackling gun crime. We can assess the adequacy of existing policies and future legislative plans. We can look at the operational and procedural changes that are being discussed at a national and regional level.

There are currently 10 independent members and each person brings individual skills, experience and expertise from health to education; from community engagement to the law; and from the media to representing the thousands of people who use firearms perfectly legitimately for sporting and recreational reasons.

Over the past months, our work plan has included looking at the preparedness of the UK to a terrorist threat and whether sufficient resources are being put into the task of preventing weapons imports; deactivation standards for weapons and the increasing use of antique firearms. We have discussed the effectiveness of the Prevent Strategy on guns and young people; the crossover between lawfully held firearms and their criminal use; and the effectiveness of firearms surrenders. Two issues that will no doubt continue to occupy us in the months ahead are the use of the internet, the dark web, and shipping companies to buy illegal weapons; and the risks of the easy availability of BB and imitation guns being mistaken for the real thing.

The NPCC CUF IAG meet quarterly and members come from different professions including: health, education, local government and youth organisations.
NABIS Intelligence Cell

The Intelligence Cell provides strategic and tactical intelligence associated with the criminal use of firearms in the UK. The team – which includes colleagues from the National Crime Agency (NCA) and Border Force - compile information about people, objects, locations and events. This information is linked to gun crime incidents and ballistic items on a daily basis.

Intelligence packages are disseminated to police forces on a regular basis to provide narratives relating to the use of firearms in criminal hands.

The Cell also provides information on outstanding firearms which have been used in crime. These are created on the NABIS Database to illustrate the presence of a gun which has been identified from ballistic material but has yet to be recovered.

An international firearms tracing capability is also available from the Intelligence Cell. NABIS populates the Interpol iARMS database for all lost, stolen and trafficked firearms and undertakes tracing on all firearms submitted to NABIS on behalf of all UK police forces. This data is also shared with the Firearms Focal Point at Europol.

Following feedback from police colleagues, the Intelligence Cell team now produce quarterly bulletins bespoke to the four main gun crime forces – Metropolitan Police, Greater Manchester Police, West Midlands Police and Merseyside Police.

Ian Head, who is Head of Intelligence for NABIS, is seconded from the National Crime Agency (NCA). He represents NABIS at national and international level. He chairs the European Firearms working group and also takes part in EMPACT – the European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats.

NABIS attended the first meeting between the European Firearms Experts (EFE) and the South East Europe Firearms Experts Group (SEEFEG) organised by the EU Commission which took place in Brussels in Nov 2016.

Our Head of Intel also took part in a CEPOL webinar in March 2017 regarding National Focal Points. CEPOL are the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training.

Since September 2013 NABIS has routinely traced all recovered firearms which are sent to our labs for examination, where a serial number is present and that are believed to be used in crime.

A large scale firearms operation in recent months resulted in more than 800 items being seized by police forces, the NCA and Border Force. More than 100 items were submitted to NABIS for examination and the multi-agency collaborative intelligence model is expected to be adopted for future operations. Firearms discharges for 2016/17 increased by 26% compared to 2015/16 levels (according to NASA – the NABIS Annual Strategic Assessment).
The Intelligence Cell has worked on several Problem Profile reports during the year such as issues including antique guns, firearms hoarders and other emerging trends.

There is a continuing trend in the recovery of revolvers capable of chambering and discharging obsolete calibre ammunition and many reported cases that demonstrate ammunition suitable for use in these firearms is being used in the criminal use of firearms in the UK.

In 2015/16 thirty per cent of revolvers or possible revolvers used in crime, were identified as obsolete calibre or possibly chambered for ammunition which is now obsolete.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number of Recoveries</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
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</tr>
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<td>2011</td>
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<tr>
<td>2013</td>
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<td>2014</td>
<td>74</td>
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<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>129</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FORENSICS

NABIS provides a dedicated forensic service for law enforcement to analyse ballistic material from across the UK.

Four forensic labs utilise cutting-edge technology to connect incidents nationwide where ballistic material has been recovered. Forensic analysis information is then shared to create a national picture that links criminal use of firearms across England, Scotland and Wales. The forensic centres operated by NABIS are in Birmingham and Manchester. The other two labs in London and Glasgow are independently operated by the Metropolitan Police Service and Police Scotland. They ensure all ballistic material is handled by forensic scientists within one organisation.

Each lab has the latest 3D HD Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS) technology that, when used in conjunction with the NABIS Database, provides the world’s first integrated firearms intelligence capability. NABIS has assisted the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) to acquire the IBIS system, which is already in use across the rest of the UK. The system has been installed and will fill an important intelligence gap around the transfer of criminal firearms linked to Northern Ireland.

The NABIS bid to the Home Office for a Bullet Trax upgrade was approved for our Birmingham and Manchester labs and was installed in December 2016.

Forces do not pay for forensic submissions to NABIS (*free at point of delivery) and there is no limit on the volume of submissions.

NABIS forensic experts provide fast time information about firearms used in incidents to senior officers, which is essential for fast-moving police investigations. Before NABIS there was no system to record the recovery of firearms or ammunition nationally and getting forensic results to identify links between incidents was slow and expensive.
A Busy Year.....
Due to increased workload and extra submissions to the labs, NABIS decided to apply to the NPCC for funding to pay for four extra forensic posts. The posts (two ballistics expert roles and two technicians) will be based at Birmingham and Manchester. The funding bid was successful and we are aiming to fill the roles as soon as possible. Force surrenders in the UK saw NABIS deal with an additional 200 firearms during 2016/17.

Armourers Course Update
NABIS has piloted a national armourer course for forces around in-force firearms classification and to improve the skills of colleagues. The pilot course took place in September 2015 - five armourers and a CPS lawyer attended the three day event at the Birmingham hub. All attendees passed the course exam and the feedback was unanimously positive. It is hoped to arrange further armourer courses in 2017/18.

Firearms Forensic Futures Group
The FFFG is made up of members from NABIS, CPS, Home Office, forensic scientists, armourers, police forces, forensic service providers (FSPs) and the forensic regulator. The group identified a model to deliver Firearms Forensics now and in the future. The recommendation of this group was to establish a “One Stop Shop” model. A report on this was submitted to the NPCC Forensic lead Chief Constable Debbie Simpson and the then NPCC Firearms lead Chief Constable Dave Thompson. Approval has been given for NABIS to progress this. NABIS intend to secure funding to set up a project team to write a bid for Police Transformational Funding to set up the “One Stop Shop” This new approach will address concerns raised by the Forensic Regulator in her annual report, support forces and the expansion to the NABIS remit will ensure that fast time ballistic intelligence is delivered to tackle the changing firearms threat.
The Operational Support function, headed up by Clive Robinson, delivers the NABIS media communications liaison, the NABIS Database, professional practice development, liaison with law enforcement and legislative development. It also supports the NPCC Criminal Use of Firearms (CUF) portfolio to share national good practice.

Liaison officer – On average during a year the NABIS Liaison Officer makes three visits to every force in the UK. These consist of one-to-one meetings, development days and inputs to training courses such as SIO courses accredited by College of Policing. The liaison officer also gives advice and guidance to NABIS Single Points Of Contact (SPOCS) and other staff about the NABIS process and how we can assist them.

The liaison officer can provide direct intervention with forces to improve performance. NABIS can offer feedback by way of quality reports and engage around property systems and protocols. We can also guide forces to become compliant with the NABIS Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). A copy of the latest MOU has been circulated to all NABIS SPOCS (Single Point Of Contact) in forces; as well as Chief Constables.

NABIS Database – We carry out database training for forces and encourage them to adhere to the MOU and update the NABIS system where possible. This ensures we have a registry of all recovered firearms and ammunition which come into police possession and have been used in crime. Our database manager and his assistant ensure they engage with and support forces on database issues. Engagement with Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCUS) will take place via firearms meetings and database user groups. The NABIS database team can also provide quality assurance and performance information.

Media Communications – The Media Communications Manager is responsible for media monitoring, resolving press, radio, documentary and TV enquiries, updating the NABIS website and Twitter account, as well as organising filming opportunities to raise awareness of NABIS and the important work we carry out. We also promote NABIS events such as conferences and international visits to our hubs. We have taken part in the Emergency Services Show for the last two years.

During recent years NABIS has appeared on various TV and radio programmes, as well as in print media. These included: BBC Crimewatch and Crimewatch Roadshow, The Kyle Files, Catching History’s Criminals (BBC4) as well as regional news bulletins.

We carry out internal marketing to forces and help them to publicise crime appeals, initiatives to tackle firearms incidents and weapon surrender campaigns.

NABIS raise awareness of successful court cases involving firearms, in conjunction with partner agencies and are keen to support police forces where possible. NABIS assisted Suffolk Constabulary with Operation Cannington; a large-scale investigation involving the seizure of hundreds of weapons and ammunition from a residential property. Following the conviction of an offender the force held a press conference which gained national media coverage. NABIS Chief Scientist Martin Parker took part in the press conference, alongside senior officers. Martin answered media questions and conducted one to one interviews.
**Gun surrenders** – NABIS were the national co-ordinating agency for several successful firearms surrenders carried out by police forces in 2016/17 which resulted in extra items being submitted to the labs. The Metropolitan Police Service ran a surrender initiative in February 2017 and 83 firearms were handed in, as well as 1,175 rounds of ammunition. One of the 22 live firearms handed in was an AK47 rifle.

Firearms reported and held on the NABIS Database as Seized or Surrendered between 2011-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Year</th>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2011/2012</td>
<td>SURRENDER</td>
<td>2242</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SURRENDER TO STREET PASTOR</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012/2013</td>
<td>SURRENDER</td>
<td>1227</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SURRENDER TO STREET PASTOR</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014</td>
<td>SURRENDER</td>
<td>940</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>SURRENDER</td>
<td>1044</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015/2016</td>
<td>SURRENDER</td>
<td>566</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Details of Surrender items (non-database) reported to NABIS during 2011-2016

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reporting Year</th>
<th>Incident Type</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2013/2014</td>
<td>SURRENDER</td>
<td>757</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2014/2015</td>
<td>SURRENDER</td>
<td>5630</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grand Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>6387</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Collaboration Agreement** – the agreement is complete and creates, for the first time, a legally binding agreement which requires forces to support the NABIS MOU.

**Academic partnerships** - During the last year NABIS has engaged with several academic establishments including Cranfield, Sussex University and Staffordshire University in relation to forensic science students and research into gun crime. Peter Squires, Professor of Criminology at Sussex also sits on the NPCC Criminal Use of Firearms Independent Advisory Group (IAG). A Sussex PHD student is researching a paper on criminal armourers which will be shared with NABIS. We have also offered internships to forensic science students; one based at our Manchester hub and the other in Birmingham. This allows us to support those wishing to broaden their skills and expertise with a national organisation.
Case studies – NABIS success

NABIS staff continue to support police forces with their expert ballistics testimony and have contributed to important convictions and positive court outcomes for their part in criminal investigations.

Gregg Taylor, a ballistics expert based at the central NABIS hub in Birmingham, was presented with a West Midlands Police Chief Constable’s team award earlier this year for his work on Operation Cookie. This case involved Nosakhere Stephenson and his accomplices who supplied firearms. The gang were the subject of lengthy prison sentences after a landmark ruling in March 2016. The original sentences were quashed and increased jail terms were given to 16 offenders. The Solicitor General Robert Buckland QC had argued the original sentences handed down at Birmingham Crown Court were too lenient. In total the gang will be spending around 51 extra years behind bars. Detectives intercepted the movement of weapons from suppliers to buyers on five separate occasions, resulting in the recovery of a total of eight firearms, including a MAC-10 machine gun and pump action shotgun found buried in a garden in Aston, Birmingham, as well as thousands of rounds of ammunition.

Detective Chief Superintendent Jo Chilton, Head of NABIS, commented on the important ruling. She said: “Gun crime disproportionately impacts the communities that we serve and the increase in sentencing for these individuals involved in the use, supply and distribution of firearms sends a strong message to criminals in the UK that we will not tolerate guns being used in our communities.”

Here is a selection of other police investigations which NABIS experts have assisted with:

**OP SEVENTY – National Crime Agency and Kent Police.** NABIS examined the firearms seized in a large scale investigation which was led by the National Crime Agency (NCA) with support from Kent Police. Five men responsible for attempting to smuggle the largest haul of automatic weapons ever seized on the UK mainland were given prison sentences which exceeded 90 years. The guns, 22 Czech VZ-nine Skorpion machine pistols and 58 assault rifles were transported from the continent by boat into the River Medway in Kent by the gang led by Harry Shilling, unaware they were being watched by the National Crime Agency. Shilling was sentenced to 30 years, while his “trusted lieutenants” Michael Defraine and Richard Rye got 27 years and 14 years and three months respectively.

Boat skipper David Payne was sentenced to 14 years and six months, while Christopher Owen, who helped unload the haul at Cuxton in Kent got a five year four month prison term. The boat, the MV Albernina, arrived in Kent on 10 August 2015 having sailed from Boulogne in France. It was tracked across the Channel by the NCA, working with partners including Border Force, the National Maritime Intelligence Centre and Kent Police. The following day, as NCA surveillance teams looked on, the guns and more than 1500 rounds of ammunition were placed in bags and a suitcase and unloaded into Payne’s van.

**LEWIS DUNNE Shotgun Murder – Merseyside Police**
Teenager Lewis Dunne died on 15 November 2015, after being shot as he walked along the towpath of the Leeds/Liverpool Canal in Vauxhall. The
offenders threw the murder weapon (a shotgun), which had been broken up, into the canal in a bid to get rid of the evidence - the parts of that shotgun were recovered by the police underwater search team in January 2016 following an extensive search.

Merseyside Police charged three men with murder and in November 2016 Jake Culshaw was sentenced to life with a 30 year tariff, Paul Martin was sentenced to life with a 30 year tariff and John Martin was sentenced to life with a 28 year tariff. Police believe 16 year old Lewis was the victim of mistaken identity.

**Connor Smith Murder - West Midlands Police** - Two men who killed Birmingham teenager Connor Smith will serve at least 40 years behind bars, after they were sentenced in May 2016. The 19 year old was shot dead from point-blank range in Kings Norton, Birmingham on October 8 2015. A jury at Birmingham Crown Court heard how his death followed a row over a £50 bag of cannabis. Leon Frye, 28, of Rodney Close, Ladywood, was sentenced to a minimum of 30 years in prison for murder.

His accomplice Philip Baillie was handed a 20 year sentence - at least half of which must be served behind bars. **One of the NABIS forensic experts linked this incident to an attempted murder two months prior, which ended up being used at court as the defendant’s defence was that the gun that was used belonged to the victim and they just picked it up off the floor during a fight.** The police found a link between the defendants for both the attempted murder and the murder, which discredited the defendant’s defence that it was not their gun.

**Jo Cox (MP) Murder – West Yorkshire Police**

In June 2016 the local MP for Batley & Spen was murdered in her constituency (Birstall) by Thomas Mair who is serving a life sentence in prison. The firearm, which the offender discharged, had been stolen the previous year from a firearms licence holder. It was examined by a NABIS expert at our Manchester hub and the expert also gave evidence during the Old Bailey trial.

**Operation Cannington – Suffolk Constabulary**

Anthony Buckland (aged 65) from Norfolk was jailed for six years after being found guilty of committing a number of firearms transaction offences. This follows an investigation into the discovery of a largest cache of weapons ever found in the United Kingdom at a property in Wyverstone, near Stowmarket in Suffolk. Anthony Buckland, of Mill Road, Stoke Holy Cross, near Norwich, was convicted on 18 December 2015 of the following twenty offences: Nine counts of selling/transferring a prohibited weapon; one count of selling/transferring a prohibited weapon (pistol); nine counts of fraud by false representation; and one count of possession of a prohibited weapon (disguised firearm). At Norwich Crown Court on Friday 19 February 2016 Buckland was sentenced to six years behind bars.

NABIS supported Suffolk Constabulary and examined a large number of weapons as part of their investigation. Our forensic experts gave advice to the Gold Group and Chief Scientist Martin Parker also took part in the press conference and provided media interviews.

Further case studies and examples of positive results by police forces and NABIS can be viewed by visiting the news pages of our website www.nabis.police.uk
NABIS Budget for financial year 2017/18

The above graphic shows the NABIS Budget in 2017/18 by Area of Spend

To reduce administrative burden and increase efficiency NABIS funding agreements were varied at National Police Chief’s Council (NPCC) in January 2016. Funding was adjusted from a one to three year funding cycle. The funding amount remains unchanged at £1,665,000 with the Scottish Police Authority (SPA) supplying an additional £50,000 per annum. This brings the NABIS annual funding level to £1,715,000.

Staff payroll - £1,403.2K

Staff training and development £34,000

Rental of premises £150K

Operating costs £127,800

Total: £1,715,000
INTERNATIONAL WORK

NABIS has always carried out international work with law enforcement colleagues to share best practice and assist policing. We have previously hosted a prestigious EU gun crime conference in Birmingham which was attended by delegates from countries including France, Italy, Spain, Sweden and The Netherlands.

Some of the international support comes via the Interpol Ballistics Identification Network (IBIN). NABIS experts use IBIN to check against items which come into our labs and can carry out checks for others. Several countries across Europe and beyond use the IBIN system and NABIS can cross match items already logged.

The NABIS team work to prevent the trafficking of firearms to the UK, building partnerships and sharing learning to keep the public safe. More recently we have given support to colleagues in Turkey, the Western Balkan countries, Belgium and France (following the recent terrorist attacks in Europe). Our teams provide expert assistance and can work with Europol, the NCA and the Home Office to aid investigations.

During the past year we also hosted visits from the Australian Border Force and Turkish police, as well as Interpol.

The three day Western Balkans conference in March this year was attended by around 50 delegates from Albania, Bosnia Herzegovina, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia, as well as the Home Office, National Crime Agency and other law enforcement organisations. NABIS also supports the work and engages with SEESAC, SEEFEN and SEEFEG.

NABIS Head of Intelligence, Ian Head, is the chair of the European Firearms Experts (EFE) group. Firearms crime is one of the priorities in the current policy cycle and Ian works with colleagues across Europe. NABIS attend the European Firearms Experts (EFE) meetings and Ian also spent a week with the Madrid Guardia Civil police as part of an awareness initiative.

The new EU firearm deactivation standards came into force in April 2016. Despite the referendum result and on-going Brexit negotiations, NABIS expects to continue to have an important role in European work to support law enforcement colleagues during 2017/18 and beyond.
Coming up for NABIS

Firearms Surrenders – NABIS will continue to support police forces who wish to run public firearms surrender initiatives. There is due to be a National Firearms Surrender in November 2017.

New post - Head of international Development (Western Balkans). This role supports the work of international partners in the Western Balkans to stem the flow of unlawful firearms reaching the UK. Working with the Home Office and UK Government partners Paula Parker (former NCA North West Regional Organised Crime Co-ordinator and Merseyside Police Superintendent) will continue to develop relationships to improve intelligence flows and liaison activity on firearms issues that impact the UK.

The Police Transformation Fund bid has passed its first stage and is awaiting final sign off by the Home Secretary. We expect to hear the outcome later this year. A staff consultation day with our partners Accenture will take place once we have more news.

The Interpol Forensic Technologies Symposium takes place in October 2017 in Croatia and NABIS has been offered four places at the event. The UKAS audit visits for Birmingham and Manchester hubs are due to take place in November/December 2017. These are routine audits.

Lawful to unlawful - NABIS will continue to liaise with lawful shooting organisations to raise awareness of relevant issues and support those who enjoy firearms lawfully as part of a hobby or their career. In October 2017 a Registered Firearms Dealer is due to stand trial at Birmingham Crown Court for conspiracy to supply firearms. West Midlands Police and NABIS have worked closely together on this investigation.

Firearms Act – Policing & Crime Bill - NABIS will continue its on-going consultation work to review potential changes to the Firearms Act and report back to the Home Office on behalf of police forces. The changes, which come into force during 2017, include a new definition of the term ‘antique’, amendments to the obsolete calibre list to reflect crime trends and a clarification of component parts. In 2015/16 thirty per cent of revolvers or possible revolvers used in crime, were identified as obsolete calibre or possibly chambered for ammunition which is now obsolete.
Think FIREARMS

- Forensic Recovery if possibly used in crime
- Intelligence Checks via Force Intelligence
- Request duty CID and inform inspector
- Ensure firearm is booked into crime property records
- Accurately record details on Information/Crime Reporting System
- Request Control Room log created for every recovery
- Make safe by requesting ARV
- Submit a firearm and any ballistic items to NABIS with an MG21 if they could be linked to crime

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