



PCC DECISION

REF 2026/002

Decision Title: SOZE – Final Business Case

Decision summary:

The PCC approved the recommended option (2a) of the Final Business Case for the procurement of SOZE software on a three-year contract with a one-year optional extension. It was approved with the following requirements:

- The AI figure would be 100% before contract sign off
- Decision gateways would be built in
- Reports would be provided on a 6 monthly basis to GSB on the use and take up

This transitions the platform from Proof of Value into full Business as Usual operation.

Background or reference to supporting papers:

The volume and complexity of digital evidence in serious crime investigations is growing rapidly, and current, largely manual, processes are inefficient, time-consuming, and resource heavy. This creates a risk that increasingly our investigation of crime is becoming weighed down by the scale of digital evidence, leading to longer-lead times for conclusion of an investigation, and greater risk of not being able to bring offenders to justice for the crimes they have committed.

To address this risk Avon & Somerset Police have been trialling a new technological solution called SOZĚ. This system, which was initially designed for use in law enforcement agencies in Australia, provides an investigation analytics tool to help search through and identify evidence across a large range of different types of digital evidence (including photo, video, audio and textual evidence).

During an 18 month Proof of Value (PoV) period, SOZĚ has demonstrated significant benefits, including improved evidence discovery, positive impact on officer wellbeing, and reduced reliance on specialist resources.

Extensive due diligence was completed before deploying SOZĚ, including full security assessments, Data Protection Impact Assessments, data sharing and processing agreements, NPPV3 supplier vetting with SIRO risk oversight, and hosting within a secure Avon & Somerset AZURE environment. These checks were repeated as the project evolved. -sharing and processing agreements, NPPV3 supplier vetting with SIRO risk oversight, and hosting within a secure

Throughout this PoV Avon & Somerset has proactively consulted national bodies, our local ethics committee, and the supplier. Through this we have in place an artificial intelligence statement which is aligned to the NPCC AI Covenant.

The associated benefits of implementation will be monitored through structured metrics and reported to demonstrate return on investment and operational impact, as well as potential for cashable savings. Benefits include reduced analysis time, increased evidence discovery, stronger case outcomes and reduced resource demand.

Avon and Somerset Police & Crime Commissioner

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any declarations of disclosable interest in this matter. Any such interests are disclosed.

The above request has my approval.

Date 12/02/26

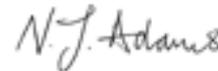


Police & Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset

CFO Signatures

Date 12/02/26

(OCC CFO required if decision requested or presented for approval by Constabulary)



PCC CFO

**Nick ADAMS
OCC CFO**

Other relevant lead officer as required
(e.g PCC CEO, COG lead)

Date

Job title

name

signature