

# Serving our communities

## Rail Delivery Group

Since April 2020 we have been working with the Rail Delivery Group (RDG) to develop a national agreement with train operators for the provision of ACRO services. The overarching national agreement helps train operators manage the offences they prosecute on the rail network.

Due to this new workstream we have seen an increase of 122% in the amount of Arrest Summons Numbers (ASNs) that are created for non-policing agencies. This included 3,377 for Great Western Railway, 1,391 for Northern Trains and 916 for Transport Investigations Limited, three of the information sharing agreements (ISAs) which were signed in the previous year.

The British Transport Police (BTP) previously used to add ASNs to the PNC on behalf of rail companies so that they were able to prosecute individuals for breaking the law in relation to railway offences. This agreement came to an end unexpectedly and the train companies were left with no one to process their cases and add the arrest summons to PNC.

ACRO's PNC Services team stepped in and were able to provide a service that other police forces were unable to.

It was identified that a bespoke product could be made to fit their needs, called ASN Lites, which was an adapted version of the full ASN process.

- ACRO currently provides services for nine train operating companies (TOCs) through the signing of six ISAs with the following customers: Transport Investigations Limited; East Midlands Railway\*; Great Western Rail; London North Eastern Railway\*; Northern Rail and South Western Railway\*.
- During 2021-22 PNC Services processed almost 6,000 ASN Lites.

Other non-policing agencies who we created ASNs for include the RSPCA and the Environment Agency.

## 16 ISAs signed

during 2021/22 including three Train Operating Companies (TOCs). This is more than double the previous year's achievement of just six agreements.



*Those marked with a \* have signed up as a new customer during this financial year.*

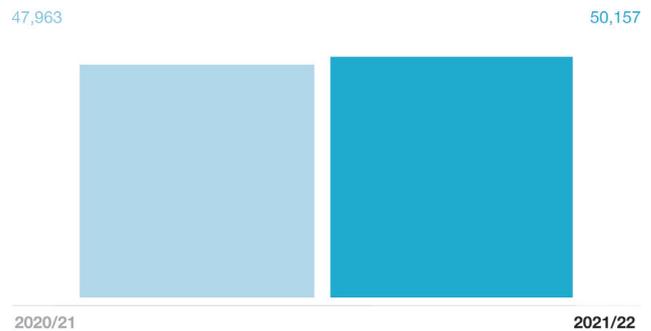
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Carrying out checks on the PNC on behalf of non-police agencies has risen by 5% in 2021-22. Our largest users include HMPPS – Prison Service, CAFCASS (Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service), Cabinet Office Probity and Judicial Appointment Commission.

5%

rise in PNC checks on behalf of non-police agencies.

## #NE (Names Enquiry) checks



## Violence Against Women and Girls

**ACRO is very much part of the wider policing family and our staff are often seconded to support other units or special projects due to their specialist knowledge and expertise.**

Senior Manager, Lucy Saunders, was seconded to the Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) taskforce which was set up in light of the report commissioned by the government after the tragic murder of Sarah Everard.

The report found that 'there were inconsistencies at every level in how the police respond to violence against women, girls and victims'. The taskforce was set up in October 2021 to build trust and confidence in policing and to help reduce violence against women and girls and to create a safer environment.

Lucy took up the role of Programme Manager which saw her responsible for publishing the delivery plan based on the strategic intent of the VAWG taskforce, on time. Her main roles were progressing activity and focusing the team, which she had pulled together from various forces and organisations who were keen to provide resources in order to support this important work.

She was also responsible for putting together the successful submission of a funding bid to the Chief Constable's Council for two more years' funding following the initial first 12 months.

The delivery plan was published in December 2021 and Lucy continued to report on the progress and activities of the plan before returning to her managerial role at ACRO.

Lucy commented: 'I was provided with an insight into how violent offences against women are investigated and how victims are supported within the Criminal Justice System, which allowed me to gain an understanding of the shortcomings in relation to how policing responds to these issues.'

'However, I was reassured by the willingness and desire to acknowledge those limitations and to promote the creation of safer spaces, to relentlessly pursue perpetrators and to build trust and confidence in policing for women and girls affected by violent crime.'

ACRO Chief Executive, Rob Price said: 'ACRO was proud to lend its support to such a significant programme of work, and one which is seen as a watershed moment for the treatment of women and girls within the criminal justice system.'

