



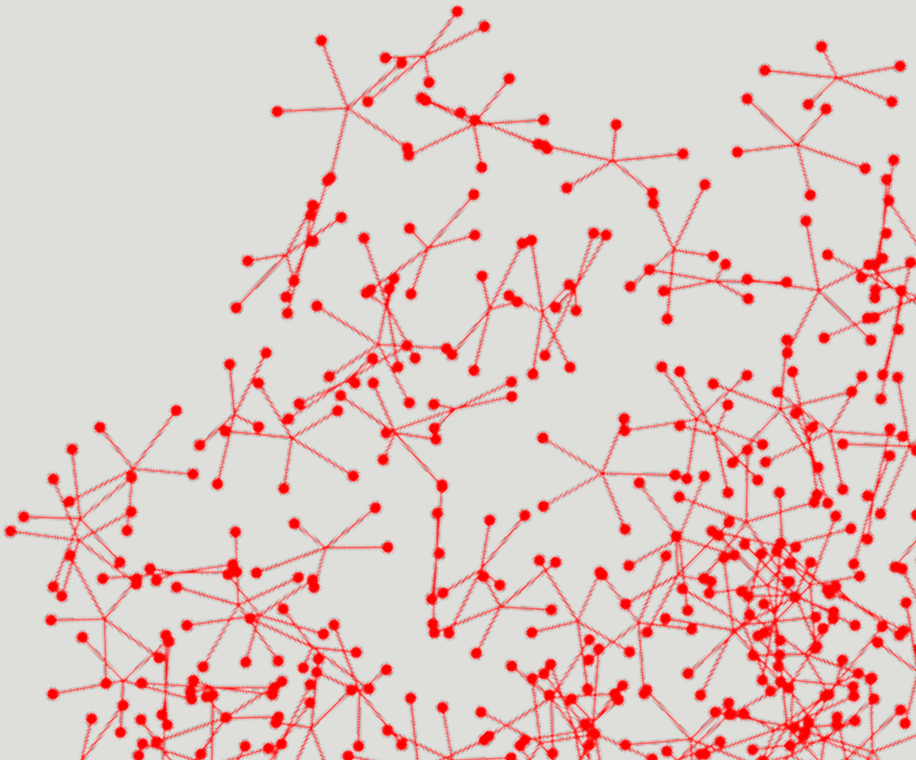


## DARE TO SHARE

### **Covert Intelligence that crosses borders**



How Charter Systems technology enables forces to maximise covert intelligence data and helps secure successful prosecutions



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## WHY DARE TO SHARE?

**Tackling the growth of Serious and Organised Crime is a main focus of the Government, as laid out in their Serious and Organised Crime Strategy Annual Report published in March 2015. It is estimated that there are around 5,800 active OCG's operating against the UK and their activities cost the UK £24 billion a year**

A single OCG is often involved in many different areas of criminality, including drugs, money laundering, firearms, human trafficking and fraud. The increasing sophistication and complexity of these criminal groups, in particular their use of technology to undertake cybercrime and internet fraud for example, means they are increasingly more difficult to identify and prosecute.

At a time when police numbers are at their lowest for over a decade, the most effective way to combat OCGs is by the effective 'pooling of resources' working in partnership with other forces and agencies to maximise resources and efficiency. The introduction of

Regional Organised Crime Units gives forces a central resource in their local area, and the National Crime Agency is tackling "larger" crimes at national level.

However, information and intelligence is most often gathered and acted upon locally and no one is better placed than the local police force to judge the impact and activities of criminal gangs operating in their jurisdiction. Human Intelligence Sources in particular need full confidence in the people they are sharing information with, and handlers need to ensure the management of their CHIS, and the duty of care they owe them, are in full compliance with RIPA legislation.

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**The challenge for all forces is how to match the information they gather locally with regional and national intelligence to gather enough evidence to build a successful prosecution against these organised criminals working in their area.**

In particular, the invaluable information gathered as a result of all covert activities and the use of Covert Human Intelligence Sources often has a pivotal role to play in building successful cases, and in order to be truly effective, forces need to find a safe, secure and trusted way to share this intelligence.

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## TURNING THE PROBLEM INTO AN OPPORTUNITY

**Serious and organised crime is a national security threat and costs the UK more than £24 billion a year. As the Home Secretary Theresa May stated;**

**'For too long, too many serious and organised criminals have been able to remain one step ahead and out of law enforcements reach. A new response is needed.'**

That new response is cross collaboration. Organised crime groups (OCG's) have become more sophisticated, using the internet to expand their activities - particularly fraud and human trafficking - not just to UK communities but globally. This means that forces have to follow suit and look beyond the constraints of their local area in order to identify, target, and bring OCG's to justice.

Whilst covert policing has traditionally been a closed world, the changing behaviours of OCG's and their extended geographical reach has meant that in order to gather enough evidence to secure a successful prosecution, forces are having to undertake increasingly complex investigations that cross borders and involve working closely with many other forces, Regional Intelligence Units (RIU's), national agencies and even international organisations.

It goes without saying that all forces have a shared desire to fight crime in the most effective way possible, but cross collaboration brings with it some very real challenges, none more so than how to share sensitive and high risk data with partner forces and agencies in a safe and secure manner that does not compromise the individual force or its information sources.

The answer is technology – Charter Systems created the first regionalised covert management solution and its pioneering system can be used to link covert databases between forces and organisations – meaning that no one force is acting alone and, more importantly, any linkages between an OCG in one community and another are quickly spotted and acted upon.

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## SHARING IN PRACTICE

**A key factor in gathering evidence and building an accurate picture of the activities of an OCG is the ability to create linkages in their criminal behaviour. This information can come from many different sources, particularly; Covert Operations and surveillance, CHIS data, undercover operations, the acquisition of communications data and the sharing of prison intelligence.**

By casting their information searching capabilities as widely as possible, forces and RIU's can gather a more complete picture of the activities, associates, and key members of these criminal gangs - an approach that relies on forces being able to share data between their Confidential Units (CU).

Gaining permission to share such sensitive data can involve a complex authorisation process that not only takes up the valuable time of senior officers, but also means that forces can miss a key opportunity to act to prevent and disrupt the very crime they are investigating.

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**In order to be truly effective in gathering and acting on more widely held information relevant to an investigation, forces need to have the ability to search and use data held in multiple partner forces and agencies, in exactly the same way they do for their own information.**

For the CU, this means having pre-approved, real time access to the covert data warehouses of their partner agencies, and allowing these partners access to their own data in return – a significant leap of faith for the traditionally closed world of covert policing.

The security platform required to undertake this safely needs to be of the highest level to give complete confidence to the participating forces and specialised departments that no compromise or risk will be involved in sharing their most sensitive data in this way.

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## SHARING IN ACTION

**Having created the first fully regionalised covert management solution, Charter Systems has already proven that such a platform can be developed, one that protects forces whilst allowing them to share key information and intelligence which makes a tangible difference to active and complex investigations.**

The powerful searching capabilities the Charter solution brings to forces own covert data can easily be expanded to access sister covert data warehouses at partnering organisations, giving senior officers even more valuable information to include in their active investigations and aid in the fight against serious and organised crime.

The wealth of information accessible within the Charter solution includes intelligence from CHIS contacts and POLE (Person, Object, Location, and Event) data for all CHIS records, Covert Operations, RIPA Authorities, TSU deployments, Communications Data Acquisition, UC and Prison intelligence records.

Permissions for partner agencies to access and search a force's data rests solely with that individual force. Depending on the nature of the relationship, officers may wish to open up their entire database for searching purposes or a selection thereof, i.e. without sanitised CHIS data. Accessing agencies essentially become remote users, with the same strict permission profiles and activity auditing the system applies to any other user. This level of control maintains the force's compliance with data protection laws and duty of care requirements.

Of particular value in both proactive and reactive investigations is the ability to set up reports that automatically send through notifications to key staff on all updates related to a certain subject, whether this is a person, object, location or event.

**The time savings for researchers, as well as the immediate nature of the information, can make a real difference in a fast moving investigation and aid in creating linkages that may otherwise be missed.**

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## THE BENEFITS OF DARING TO SHARE

**Uncovering the many linkages between these large and complex OCG's is vital in gathering sufficient evidence to bring them to justice. By monitoring the key members of these groups, and their associates and activities, forces can build a plan to effectively disrupt these activities.**

The expanded breadth and depth of data that a sharing partnership offers forces, combined with allowing quicker access to key data, will help officers become both more effective and efficient in their investigations into complex and organised crime.

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**The resulting intelligence will better inform decision making and aid in both proactive and reactive investigations.**

In particular, the ability to set up reports to proactively notify staff about all activity recorded for a certain nominal, for example, is invaluable in on-going investigations, saving time and providing the most up to date information to senior investigating officers.

With all actions being audited automatically within the system reducing the risk of corruption, and having been penetration tested to the highest level by an external organisation, forces can have complete confidence that their data is safe and secure. In addition, data will only be shared in line with force policy and procedures, protecting the force in line with current Data Protection Act legislation and MOPI.

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## ABOUT US

**EQ Charter Systems is the UK's leading provider of Covert Management Software solutions to the Police and other Law Enforcement Agencies. Our system is designed to provide a consistent and RIPA compliant approach that allows criminal investigations to operate more effectively by providing SIOs with a single, cohesive view of all the intelligence related to their investigations.**

In addition to enabling police forces and LEAs to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of their covert investigations and information sharing capabilities, Charter Systems also developed the UK's first collaborative working and intelligence sharing solution for covert

operations. Our specialist solutions help forces to meet the demands of budget cuts and adopt more effective working practices through better use of technology, collaborative working systems, and secure and efficient data sharing.

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