

**OFFICE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE
DECISION RECORD**

Decision Record Number: **DR 41/2026**

Title: **Minerva S22 Collaboration Agreement 2026**

Executive Summary:

The Minerva Programme is a national policing collaboration comprising 32 police forces and policing bodies using the Niche Records Management System (NicheRMS365). The collaboration seeks to improve operational policing through common standards, enhanced data sharing, improved interoperability, digital integration, and collaborative development of the NicheRMS365 platform. The updated Section 22A Collaboration Agreement formalises governance, funding, information assurance, operational responsibilities and collaboration arrangements between participating forces and policing bodies. Humberside Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside are named participants in the collaboration agreement.

The Police and Crime Commissioner is asked to approve Humberside Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside entering into an updated Section 22A Collaboration Agreement for the Minerva Programme.

Decision of the PCC:

Approved.

Background Report: Open–

Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

I confirm I have considered whether I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct.

Any such interests are recorded below.

The above decision has my approval.

Signature



Date 15/07/2026

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FOR HUMBERSIDE**

SUBMISSION FOR: DECISION

OPEN

Title: Approval to Enter into the Minerva Programme Section 22A Collaboration Agreement 2026

Date: 29/06/2026

1. Executive Summary

The Police and Crime Commissioner is asked to approve Humberside Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside entering into the updated Section 22A Collaboration Agreement for the Minerva Programme.

The Minerva Programme is a national policing collaboration comprising 32 police forces and policing bodies using the Niche Records Management System (NicheRMS365). The collaboration seeks to improve operational policing through common standards, enhanced data sharing, improved interoperability, digital integration, and collaborative development of the NicheRMS365 platform. The updated agreement formalises governance, funding, information assurance, operational responsibilities and collaboration arrangements between participating forces and policing bodies. Humberside Police and the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside are named participants in the collaboration agreement.

2. Recommendation

That the Police and Crime Commissioner approve the signing of the Minerva Programme Section 22A Collaboration Agreement on behalf of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside.

3. Background

The Minerva Programme was established in 2013 as a collaboration of police forces using the Niche Records Management System (NicheRMS365). It was created to address inconsistent system configuration, fragmented data standards and barriers to data sharing between police forces and national systems. The collaboration now consists of 32 participating police forces and policing bodies across England, Wales, Northern Ireland and British Transport Police.

The programme's vision is:

"A future where police personnel can easily and instantly access secure, high-quality information without geographical constraint driving better decisions, stronger cases and safer communities."

The collaboration supports:

- Improved operational policing through better information sharing.
- Development and convergence of NicheRMS365.
- Digital integration across policing and criminal justice partners.
- Adoption of common standards and best practice.
- Greater efficiency through collaborative development and reduced duplication.

4. Options

Option 1 – Approve the Agreement (Recommended)

Continue Humberside's participation in the Minerva Programme under the updated Section 22A Collaboration Agreement and retain access to collaborative governance, national development activity and shared innovation opportunities.

Option 2 – Do Not Approve

Withdraw from the collaboration and lose the benefits associated with collaborative development, common standards and influence over future development of NicheRMS365. Withdrawal provisions are set out within the agreement.

5. Financial Implications

The Minerva Delivery Team budget for 2026/27 is £870,000. Funding is provided through member force contributions, with each participating force contributing a standard membership fee of £27,500 per annum unless eligible for collaboration discounts under the agreement. This is an increase of £5,000 for each contributing member force. Financial contributions are subject to annual review and governance approval.

The collaboration includes robust financial governance arrangements, annual budgeting, quarterly financial reporting and audit provisions.

It should be noted that this uplift in budget has been in place since FY2024/2025.

6. Legal Implications

The collaboration agreement is made pursuant to Sections 22A–23I of the Police Act 1996 and provides the legal framework for collaboration between participating police forces and policing bodies. The agreement has been developed to govern governance, funding, liabilities, information management, procurement, data protection and dispute resolution arrangements.

Legal Services have confirmed the agreement is suitable for execution by the Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable.

Legal advice received:

“The document remains substantially unchanged, with only minimal amendments having made. The most significant change is the increase of the annual budget for the Minerva Delivery Team from £760,000 p.a., to £870,000, which subsequently leads an increase of the yearly financial contribution for each member force by £5,000, from £22,500 to £27,500.

The other change is in relation to the provisions for redundancy payments. The 2023 version stated that the cost of redundancies for staff working on Minerva is to be borne by the employing party and not treated as a liability of the Minerva Delivery Team, unless otherwise agreed in writing. This has now been updated to a more collaborative working practice, and it allows employing parties who make redundancy payments to staff within the Minerva Delivery Team to recover some of these costs from the Minerva budget, provided certain conditions are met. These conditions include: (i) the secondment of the staff to Minerva occurred prior to redundancy; (ii) the calculation of the amount recoverable is based solely on the time the staff member spent on secondment, excluding their total continuous employment service; and (iii) the employing party must issue an invoice with clear calculations within two months of the staff member’s last working day. These changes reflect a shift in the allocation of redundancy costs, potentially creating a shared financial responsibility between the employing party and the Minerva budget. All the other changes are fairly minimal, and either corrective or related to formatting or numbering.

As such, from a legal perspective we are content that the Agreement remains materially unchanged, especially in terms of risks and obligations for HP.”

7. Driver for Change/Contribution to Delivery of the Police and Crime Plan

The agreement supports efficient and effective policing through improved information sharing, collaborative digital development and enhanced interoperability across

police forces and criminal justice partners. It contributes to delivering modern, effective and digitally enabled policing services and supports national policing digital transformation objectives.

8. Equalities Implications

No adverse equality impacts have been identified directly from entering into the collaboration agreement. Participating organisations remain responsible for monitoring ethical and equality standards within the operation of the Minerva Delivery.

9. Consultation

The agreement has been developed and reviewed through the governance arrangements of the Minerva Programme involving participating police forces, policing bodies, legal advisers and programme governance structures. The agreement was updated following annual review in May 2026

10. Media information

None at present.

11. Background documents

Minerva S22a Agreement May 2026 Final v3.

12. Publication

Open – Section 22A Agreements are published on the OPCC website.

13. DPIA

Not applicable.