

In 2013 the UK Government introduced its Cloud First policy which is defined as “mandatory for central government and strongly recommended to the wider public sector”*. As a strategic decision, proven in the commercial sector already, migration into the cloud is a means to realise tangible, immediate and sustainable cost reductions coupled to significant improvements in performance, efficiency and customer service.

In this context, and in the spirit of Freedom of Information, please could you help me understand the current situation concerning the finance system used by the Constabulary:

1. What finance system is used by the Constabulary?

Oracle Fusion

2. Does the system include a Purchase-to-Pay module?

Yes

3. How many officers and staff have log-ins to the finance system, not just in the finance department but across the Constabulary more widely?

There are approximately 70 employees who have access to the General Ledger

4. Do you currently offer self-service functionality to your creditors and debtors to help them resolve financial matters and queries without their needing to call your finance team?

Not currently

5. Where is the finance system physically located and run, i.e. is it deployed locally on premise and managed by Constabulary staff in-house, or externally via the cloud, eg: hosted and managed by the vendor?

It is located in the Cloud and managed by Oracle

6. What is the annual support and maintenance cost, or cloud subscription fee, paid for the finance system?

The net cost for the period 7 Mar 19 to 6 Mar 20 is £235,451.10

The net cost for EPBCS for the period 23 Nov 19 to 22 Dec 20 is £31,482.36

7. What other systems used by the Constabulary are currently integrated with your finance system?

No, non-Oracle systems are directly integrated into the finance system. However, we make use of another Oracle products

8. When did the contract to supply the current finance system commence and when does it expire?

Oracle Fusion Financials went live in July-17 and the renewal of the license will take us to March-24

9. When do you expect to begin evaluating alternative solutions as contract expiration approaches?

The product itself is upgraded on a quarterly basis. It is not expected, at this point in time, that the Force will be looking to evaluate alternative solutions for some time in the future.

10. Who is the Constabulary officer/staff member with ultimate responsibility for financial operations and the resources (eg systems) required to facilitate them (name & title please)?

The Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson, has responsibility for the financial administration of the PCC and West Midlands Police.

This responsibility is laid down in the "Approval of The Scheme of Consents and Delegations, Financial Regulations and Contract Standing Orders":

https://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/wmpcc_004a_2012_scheme_of_consents_and_delegations_financial_regulations_and_contract_stan.pdf

The PCC delegates responsibilities for financial matters to:

Neil Chamberlain – Director of Resources – West Midlands Police
Mark Kenyon – Chief Finance Officer - PCC

11. If you are part of a shared service is your finance system utilised across the partnership and if not, how do you share financial data and reporting?

Not currently